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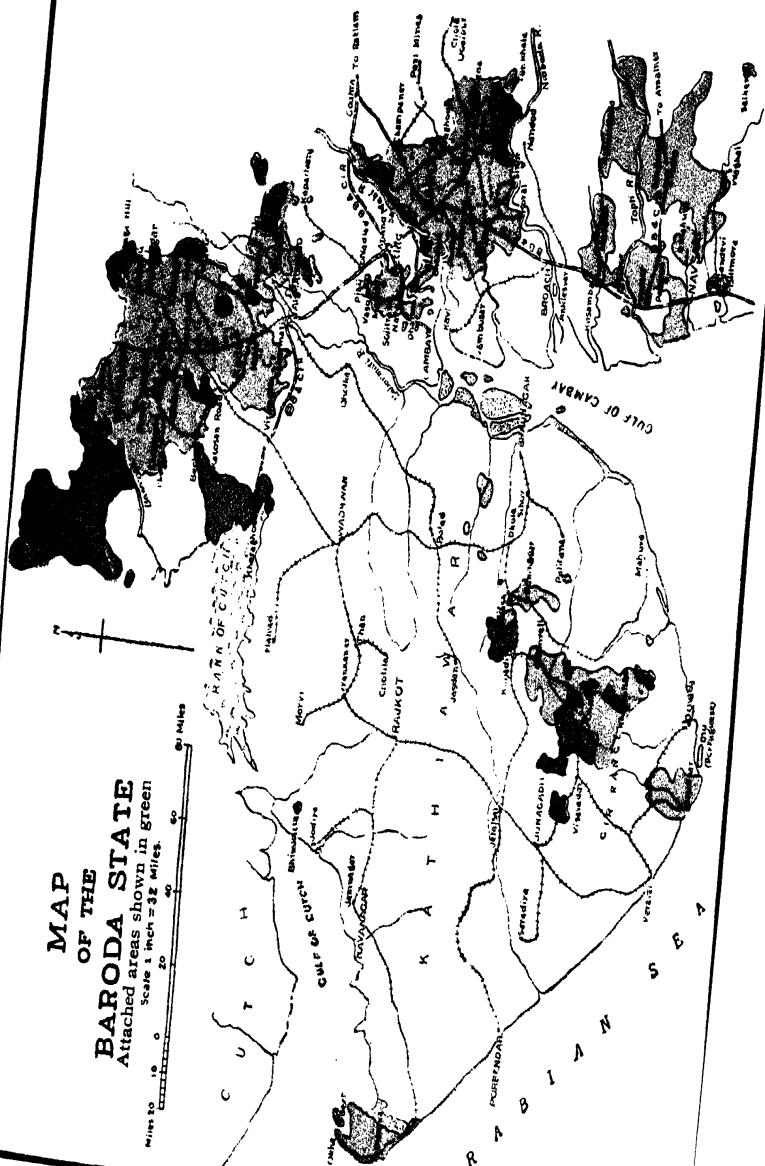
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**MAP
OF THE
BARODA STATE**

Attached areas shown in green
Scale 1 inch = 32 Miles.

Miles to
0 10 20 30 40 50 60



BARODA ADMINISTRATION REPORT 1944-45

(1st August 1944 to 31st July 1945)

Published by order of His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar

**The Baroda State Press
1946**

Price Rs. 2-12-0

Baroda,
11 February, 1946.

May it please Your Highness,

I have the honour to submit the Administration Report for the year 1944-45.

A summary of important activities in the year is attached at the end of the report.

I remain,
Your Highness' most obedient servant,

B. L. MITTER,
Dewan.

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Baroda Administration Report

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

TERRITORY — The Baroda State consists of five territorial blocks which lie scattered over Gujarat and Kathiawar, to which natural division it wholly belongs.

The southern district of Navsari lies on either side of the Tapti, forming a mosaic with the villages of the Surat collectorate, and is separated from the Baroda district by the States of the Rewa-Kantha and the Broach district. The western talukas of the district, the Rasti mahals, are flourishing and prosperous. Their rich soil grows good varieties of cotton, fruit and sugarcane. The rivers Tapti, Ambika and Purna drain them from east to west. The eastern parts forming the talukas of Songadh and Vyara, are called the Rani mahals and comprise areas of forests and backward people — the Raniparaj. The central talukas, Mangrol and Mahuva, combine the features of the Rasti and Rani mahals.

The river Narmada, with its picturesque banks, forms the southern boundary of the Baroda district. Almost in the centre, lies the capital of the State, Baroda, a city of palaces and stately public buildings, of parks and recreation grounds, of broad well-laid roads and beautiful avenues, of colleges, schools and hospitals, a city worthy to be the seat of a modern and progressive State. There are four clearly marked tracts in this district. The tract beyond the Mahi, comprising the talukas of Petlad and Bhadran, forms part of Charotar, famous for the fertility of its soil and the variety and the richness of its crops, specially tobacco. The central talukas of Baroda and Padra have a composite soil in which sand and lime are intermixed. The bleak and tree-less country to the south is a part of the Kahnam area. It consists of the talukas of Dabhoi, Sinor and Karjan, and produces some of the finest cotton in India. Finally, to the north and south-east is a country of low forests and numerous ravines.

Further to the north, beyond Ahmedabad, lies the Mehsana district, with its historic towns of Patan and Sidhpur, and its archaeological ruins and ancient monuments of interest and beauty. Mehsana, the district headquarters, is an important junction on the B. B. & C. I. Railway line to Malwa and Rajputana. The eastern part of the district consists of fertile and well-wooded country, the west is drier

and more barren. Except the trans-Sabarmati area, which is wild and picturesque and cut up by many ravines, the district is a sloping plain unrelieved by hills or rivers.

In Kathiawar, far to the west, isolated and dispersed territories form the districts of Amreli and Okhamandal. The central block of the Amreli district is fertile and well cultivated except in the south where it touches the Gir. Providence has been bountiful to Kodinar and given it fertile soil and abundant water.

Okhamandal has its headquarters at Dwarka, an ancient place of pilgrimage, sacred to the Hindus. The country is bleak and barren, "where even stunted trees are bowed low by the subservient winds in obeisance to Dwarka's Lord." In recent years, however, unsuspected sources of wealth have been discovered. The Port of Okha, with its excellent harbour, has become one of the principal ports of Kathiawar and west India, and industrial concerns like the Associated Cement Company, the Tata Chemicals and the Hindustan Motors have been established here. These developments promise to turn a desolate area of the State into one of the richest.

Besides these districts there are extensive territories in Gujarat and Kathiawar, which have been recently attached to the State. In physical features and soil they are similar to the districts which they adjoin. The territories in the Rewa Kantha, between the two rivers the Narmada and the Mahi is a country of low forests and numerous ravines and are rich in good building stone. The areas to the North between the Mahi and the Sabarmati is hilly wild and picturesque and many of the intermediate valleys are remarkable for the beauty of their scenery. The soil is rich and in southern and western parts well cultivated. The territory adjoining the Mehsana district in the north and west is a level plain, sandy and arid, sloping towards the runn of Cutch. The third block of attached territories consists of the states, talukas and estates lying in Kathiawar around the Amreli district. Like that district itself, parts of this country are fertile and well cultivated, but suffer from a periodic shortage of rain. All these territories give promise of considerable development, once education is introduced and they are opened up with roads and railways.

The area and population of these districts are given below:—

District		Area in miles	Population
Baroda	...	1,933	959,416
Mehsana	...	3,080	1,180,541
Navsari	...	1,811	465,923
Amreli	...	1,071	206,543
Okhamandal	...	281	42,587
Attached areas	...	6,067	600,000
Total	...	14,243	3,455,010

2. HISTORY — The extraordinary configuration of the Baroda territory—its diversity and fragmentation—is the legacy of two centuries of military exploits, internecine wars and financial and administrative mismanagement. When Pilajirao, the founder of the fortunes of the Gaekwar family, captured Songadh, the hill fortress which commands the southern approaches to Gujarat, he laid the foundation of a new power, which rose on the ruins of the Mughal Empire. The establishment of a principality at Songadh, its extension to include the territory which now forms the Baroda district and the defeat of other chieftains who disputed the supremacy of the Gaekwar power, was the work of Pilajirao, during his brief career of eleven years between 1721 and 1732. The achievements of his successor, the able and energetic Damaji (1732-68), were equally brilliant. He completed the conquest of Gujarat, extended the Maratha power into Kathiawar, and so strengthened his position that he could aspire to be independent of the Peshwa. It is unnecessary to go into the details of the rivalry between the Peshwa and the Gaekwar which in the middle of the eighteenth century led to the partition of Gujarat and of all future conquests between them. The distribution of territories was effected without any considerations of administrative convenience, and solely on the ground of their revenue yielding capacity. In 1817, the Peshwa's portion passed into the hands of the East India Company and now forms the districts of British Gujarat. This fact explains the dispersed situation of the State territories. Among the acquisitions of Damajirao there were two, which formed the nuclei of the present Amreli district—Amreli and Mul Dwarka which he conquered, and Damanagar which he received in dowry.

It is unnecessary to refer here to the history of the years following the death of Damajirao. The Gaekwar's alliance with the East India Company began in 1802, and in 1805 and 1817 he entered into treaties with the Company under which, among other things, a subsidiary force was placed in Baroda, and for its payment valuable territories, approximately 4,000 square miles in extent, were assigned. These cessions constitute the second of the historical reasons for the scattered nature of the State territories at present.

The rule of Maharaja Sayajirao II (1819-1847) was marked by frequent controversies with the Government of Bombay, arising out of the East India Company's guarantees to the bankers, who had advanced money to the State, to the disbanded Arab mercenaries and others. During this period, the East India Company assumed the direct management of the tributaries, it being agreed that the tributes due from them should be collected by the East India Company and paid to Baroda. This assumption of management is also responsible for the present state of the map of the State.

Little need be said about the three successors who bridge the period between Maharaja Sayajirao II and Maharaja Sayajirao III. In

Maharaja Ganpatrao's reign, 1847-56, infanticide and the sale of children were prohibited, and the lands for the B. B. and C. I. Railway were ceded to the British Government free of cost. Maharaja Khanderao's reign, 1856-70, will be memorable for the service he rendered to the British at the time of the Mutiny and the construction of the first railway line in the State between Miyagam and Dabhoi; for reforms which brought a semblance of regularity in the administration of justice and of land revenue. Whatever improvement had been effected in the administration by these two princes, was within a short period of five years, lost by the deterioration in Maharaja Malharrao's time, 1870-75. He returned to the abuses of the past, introduced a system similar to farming of districts and imposed irregular and special taxes. He was warned in 1874, but in vain. The next year, he was deposed for gross misgovernment, and Maharani Jammabai, the widow of Maharaja Khanderao, was invited to adopt a son who might ascend the Gadi, and Sir T. Madhavrao, one of the ablest administrators of those times, was entrusted with the administration. Maharani Jammabai adopted Gopalrao, a descendant of a brother of Damajirao, who, as Sayajirao III, ascended the gadi on 27th May 1875.

3. THE GOLDEN PERIOD — The sixty four years that this remarkable man was on the throne, is the golden period in the history of the Baroda State. His achievements were numerous a scientific system of land revenue, survey and settlement was introduced, great departments of State formed; social laws framed and enacted, compulsory education enforced, important programmes of rural reconstruction and industrial development carried out, the social services of the State extended, a net work of railways constructed, the port of Okha developed, and above all, a tradition of just and good government firmly established. His Highness was assisted by a succession of able Ministers like Sir T. Madhavrao and Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, but the inspiration was always his. Modern Baroda is the great and fitting memorial to Sayajirao.

Maharaja Sayajirao had the great good fortune of celebrating the diamond jubilee of his reign in January 1936, amid the widespread manifestations of joy and loyalty of his people. To commemorate this unique event, a memorial trust of a crore of rupees was set apart by His Highness from his private funds for the benefit of his people. He defined his purpose in these memorable words: "My ideal is to improve village life—all sides of it. I wish to develop in my people a keen desire for a higher standard of living, 'a will to live better', and a capacity for self-help and self-reliance. I earnestly desire to make village life interesting and farming a career, the rewards of which will satisfy the most enterprising among the villagers. From the income of this (fund), grants will be made for useful schemes, like extensions of gamthans to relieve overcrowding, village water supplies, communications, educative work of all kinds etc.

Special preference will be given (i) to poorer areas which probably have been neglected in the past, and (ii) to the needs of the backward communities like the Raniparaj, the Antyajs, the Thakardas, the Rabaris etc." Rules have been framed and a trust board, with the Minister as president, has been constituted for the administration of this fund. The notable part played by this trust in rural development is described in chapter no. XIII.

The great period of Maharaja Sayajirao closed with his death on the 6th of February 1939. He was succeeded by his grandson, His Highness the Maharaja Pratapsinh Gaekwar, whose reign is already famous for the permanent reduction in land revenue to the extent of over twenty per cent, the constitutional reforms and the Sayajirao III Memorial Trust of a crore of rupees, the Maharani Shanta Devi Trust fund for the medical relief of women and children, the extension of the social services, and finally the accession of large areas to the State.

The first three of these measures, the permanent reduction in land revenue, the constitutional reforms and the memorial trust were announced by His Highness, at the time of his accession, in his message to his people on the 20th February 1939. He said:

"During my ten years' association with the government of the State, I also have come to realise that the agriculturist is the backbone of my State and to take the keenest interest in his economic condition and general well-being. As a practical manifestation of my sympathy and affection, I now direct that the reduced assessment (of land revenue) announced by my revered predecessor be substituted for the existing settlement rates and that it shall be varied only in the course of revision of settlements.

It is my fervent hope that as the outcome of these concessions, which meet the equities of the case to the fullest extent, the agriculturist will be encouraged in a life of prudence and thrift and will earnestly seek a higher standard of life and level of prosperity."

The same solicitude for the welfare of his people is seen in the creation of the Sayajirao Memorial Trust. "The long reign of Sir Sayajirao III constitutes the Golden Age of Baroda's history, and in order that his memory may live for ever and his life be a shining inspiration, it is the universal desire that there should be a memorial in every way worthy of his greatness.

I have, therefore, decided to set apart from my private funds, the sum of one crore of rupees to perpetuate the memory of the great man whom we have lost. It is my desire that all classes and communities in the State, without exception, should receive the benefit of this Trust.

Thus will generations to come be reminded of a Ruler, who dedicated his life to his people, and who chose service as the highest ideal, in precept and in practice." The schemes under this trust are described in chapter XIII.

In the same message, His Highness also announced his consent to the recommendations of the committee appointed, in 1938, to consider constitutional advance. He said "The new constitution will emphasise once more the complete identity of interest between the Ruler and the ruled and among all sections of the population; and it is my earnest hope, that it will advance the material and moral condition of my people including those on whom age-old customs have imposed disabilities."

4. ATTACHED AREAS — The measures taken during these two reigns and the development which resulted, as well as the personality of the rulers, gave Baroda a position unique among the States and enabled her to play her part in shaping the future polity of India. It is necessary to refer at some length to this, for there has been no event in the recent history of Baroda of greater historical significance than the attachment of some 250 states, talukas and estates of Gujarat and Kathiawar, occupying more than 6,000 square miles, an area almost as large as the State itself. If the States are to make their influence felt in the polity of India, they must so adjust themselves as to form units, as nearly equal as possible, in size, population and economic and cultural development to the provinces of British India. The very small states, in themselves, lack the essentials for such development and, unless they seek to acquire the power of such growth by voluntary association with States like Baroda, they can have no place in the future. "The firm establishment of conditions in which these areas will secure and enjoy full opportunity for progress and development," is the object underlying the new relationship and the Baroda Government are pledged to see that no effort will be spared in its realisation.

This pledge is being fully redeemed. In his message to the chiefs, talukdars, bhagdars and the people of the areas, His Highness the Maharaja announced measures for their welfare :—

- (i) For rural development, he announced an annual grant of Rs. 0·50 lakhs from the Diamond Jubilee Trust and the formation of a new trust associated with his name yielding an equal sum.
- (ii) The setting apart of Rs. 10,000 every year, for the education of the children of the chiefs and talukdars.

The whole administration of the attached area has been re-organised. Two special officers, one at Baroda and one in Amreli, have been appointed with deputies stationed at Baroda, Mehsana, Patan

and Amreli to assist them. A special department under the commissioner of agriculture has been created for rural development and the extension of co-operative movement in these areas. A judicial service for the exercise of residual jurisdiction, has been established, the police force has been enlarged and various departments such as public works, sanitation and education expanded to meet the needs of the attached areas.

The social services, for which the State is so justly famous, are being rapidly extended to these areas. Compulsory education has been introduced in some areas and panchayats organised in several villages. Dispensaries and maternity hospitals and clinics have been sanctioned and the services and the medical and educational institutions of the State thrown open to the people, on the same terms as are enjoyed by the subjects of the State. Loans have been advanced to units which were heavily indebted to free them from usurious creditors.

In the schemes for post war reconstruction also, ample provision has been made for the development of these areas by building roads and railways and opening dispensaries and schools, rural reconstruction centres, etc.

A full account of the administration of the attached areas will be found in chapter V.

The second part of this chapter deals with the system of government and administration, the settlement of land and the social and economic conditions in the State as they are found to-day.

The System of Government

5. **THE RULER** — The Ruler is the source of all authority and power in the State, but he has delegated wide powers to the executive council, the legislative assembly and the judiciary, reserving to himself important questions involving policy. The revenues of the State are regarded as public funds, and the Privy Purse or Khangi which includes all expenditure on the Palace is fixed.

6. **GOVERNMENT OF BARODA ACT** — The Government of Baroda Act, 1940, defines the constitution, the functions and powers of the executive council, the legislature and the judiciary.

7. **EXECUTIVE** — The executive council consists of the chief minister called dewan, and five naib dewans, two of whom are non-official gentlemen, with a record of public service, appointed from among the members of the Dhara Sabha. All members are responsible to the Maharaja. The council has been vested with wide powers of administration. Each member is in charge of a number of depart-

ments in respect of which he exercises clearly defined administrative powers. The Minister and his colleagues are assisted by a secretariat, organised on the system prevailing in British India. The entire administration is carried on through well organised departments. These departments address their proposals, when necessary, to the government, which are submitted to the member in charge and the council. The relations with the British Government and Indian States are conducted by the Minister personally through the political office.

8. **LEGISLATURE** — The Dhara Sabha or the legislative council was reconstituted in 1940 under the Government of Baroda Act. It now consists of sixty members, of whom twenty seven are elected by territorial constituencies on a wide franchise. Every person who holds land assessed at not less than Rs. 30, or pays income tax, or owns immovable property worth Rs. 1,000 or more, or has passed the matriculation or an equivalent examination, is entitled to vote and to stand as a candidate. The number of persons on the voters' list for the general constituencies at the election of 1940 was 2,39,336 or about 8·5 per cent of the population of the State. Besides these, ten members represent industry, commerce, labour and the co-operative movement as special interest. The other twenty three members of the Dhara Sabha consist of six officials and seventeen non-official gentlemen, nominated to represent minorities etc. The Dewan is the president. There is also a deputy president, who is elected by the Dhara Sabha. Four parliamentary secretaries are appointed to assist the members of the executive council in their work relating to the Dhara Sabha, and a Dhara Sabha secretariat, directly under the President, has been formed.

The Dhara Sabha has the power to initiate and pass legislation, to discuss and vote on the budget. Members may also ask questions and move resolutions on matters of public interest, subject to certain limitations. All legislation requires the assent of the Maharaja. Measures affecting the army, the privy purse, treaties or relations with the paramount power or other states, the credit of the State, or the provisions of the Government of Baroda Act are excluded from its cognisance. Similarly, expenditure charged to the revenues of the State is not submitted to the vote of the House. There are certain matters which require the previous sanction of the Maharaja, before measures relating to them can be introduced. The Dewan has power of certification. He may certify a measure before the House as affecting the tranquility of the State, in which case the measure is dropped, or he may certify that a bill or amendment rejected by the assembly is an emergent measure, and submit it to the Maharaja to enact it as law.

9. **THE JUDICIARY** — The judiciary is separate from, and independent of, the legislature and the executive. The judges of the

high court hold office till the age of retirement, and may only be removed by His Highness on the ground of misbehaviour or infirmity of body and mind. Their salaries are also not subject to the vote of the Dhara Sabha. Under the present Act, the position, status and functions of the Huzur Nyaya Sabha and the high court have been stabilised and put on to a statutory basis.

10. THE POLICY—The policy of His Highness the Maharaja has been set out clearly—it is the close association of the people with the government. To give effect to this policy, he has promulgated the new constitution which, in His Highness' memorable words, "will emphasise once more the complete identity of interest between the ruler and the ruled and among all sections of the people." Baroda has developed for many decades on lines of its own and evolved an individuality of which it is justly proud. In constitutional matters too, it has developed forms and institutions, which, while giving full effect to the principle of close association, are suited to her conditions and serve her special needs. In the Dhara Sabha no attempt has been made to form blocks. Members always formed and expressed views, independently on the merits of individual issues. These valuable features are sought to be preserved, as far as possible in the present constitution.

Administrative System

11. REVENUE DEPARTMENT—Under the old farming system, the revenue farmers were not only collectors of revenue, but exercised civil and criminal jurisdiction as well. When this system gave place to direct settlement of land revenue with the ryot, it became necessary to create revenue, judicial and police services. The present hierarchy, with clearly defined powers of each grade, dates from that time.

The revenue administration of the State is modelled on the system prevailing in the ryotwari provinces of British India. In one important principle, however, it departs from the policy of the British Government. There has been almost complete separation of the executive and the judiciary since 1907.

The revenue administration consists of a gradation of officers, with the sar suba at the head. He deals with land revenue, barkhali, giras, boundary and railway demarcation, registration and stamps, guardians and wards, estates under government management, compensation, charitable institutions, income-tax, customs, excise and opium and local self-government. Under the sar suba, there is a suba or a collector, at the head of each of the five districts of the State.

The suba, as district magistrate, is primarily responsible for the maintenance of law and order and for the work of the police. As

collector, he is the official head of his district, and it is his duty to see that the land revenue, income-tax and other revenues are duly collected. The maintenance of land records by village officials, the state of the crops, the economic condition of the people and the grant of remission of land revenue, when necessary, demand his attention.

A district consists of eight to ten mahals or talukas, each in charge of a vahivatdar—smaller talukas called peta-mahals are placed under mahalkaris. The vahivatdar is the chief revenue officer in the taluka. He exercises second class magisterial powers for the purpose of maintaining peace and order. There are thirty four talukas and eleven peta mahals in the State.

Over a group of three to four talukas there is a naib suba, primarily a supervising and inspecting officer. There are 11 sub-divisions. There are also personal naib subas stationed at district headquarters, who help the subas in general supervision, and administer with suba's powers stamp and registration, court of wards, compensation, estates under government management, and devasthan.

The lowest unit for administrative purposes is the village. In each village, there is a headman, patel, an accountant, talati, and a staff of village servants. The patel is responsible for the collection of revenue, and its remittance to the taluka treasury. He must maintain law and order in his village, and must report the occurrence of crimes to the higher authorities. He is the president of the village panchayat. The talati is responsible for the maintenance and custody of the accounts and land records. During the cultivation season, he records the crops raised in each field, the area in which it is raised and an estimate of their outturn.

12. JUDICIARY — The varisht (high) court is the supreme tribunal in the State, subject to an appeal to the Maharaja, in cases similar to those in which appeals are permitted in British India to the Privy Council. In the disposal of these appeals, the Maharaja is advised by the Nyaya Sabha, which corresponds to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The Nyaya Sabha consists of the legal remembrancer and two members, including a judge of the high court.

The varisht court does not exercise original civil or criminal jurisdiction, but only appellate and revisional powers. It, however, possesses extraordinary powers to try original cases both civil and criminal, and it exercises a general superintendance and control over the whole administration of justice. The judges of the high court are appointed by the Maharaja from among the district judges or leading members of the bar.

Under the high court there are five district courts, which try civil suits of any limit, small causes suits upto Rs. 1,000, and sit as

sessions court for criminal cases. Assisting these, are assistant judges' courts, with the same civil jurisdiction (small causes suits upto Rs. 500 only) as district courts, but with limited powers in criminal cases. In talukas, there are munsiffs' courts. They hear civil suits upto Rs. 10,000, small causes suits upto Rs. 200 (Rs. 500 when sitting in bench) and enjoy first class magisterial powers. The judicial cadre consists of three high court judges, five district judges and magistrates, five assistant district judges, and forty munsiffs.

13. POLICE — Formerly, magisterial and police functions were exercised by the same officers, nor was there any clear demarcation between the army and the police. With the reforms of Sir T. Madhavrao, magisterial and police functions became separated, and a police service independent of the army was created. At present, the force consists of two distinct bodies — the stipendiary and the village police. The former is under the control of the police commissioner, and the latter, though under the revenue department, is responsible to him for their police duties.

The stipendiary police consists of five units with 5,214 officers and men. The armed forces, which consist of about two thirds of the stipendiary police, guard jails and treasuries, escort prisoners etc. A special armed reserved force is maintained in each district for emergencies.

Besides this, there is the mounted police, which patrol boundaries, guard dangerous points, pursue dacoits and form an escort during His Highness' tours; the city police, which is in charge of registration of vehicles in Baroda City, and controls traffic; the railway police on the State railways in the Baroda and Mehsana districts; and the water police, whose duty is to prevent and detect crime on the sea, and smuggling in Kodinar and Okhamandal.

The police organisation is a graded hierarchy of the jamadar, with a few constables under him in charge of a chowky, the outpost with its naib foujdar, the police station under foujdar, the circle under sar foujdar and the police naib suba in charge of a district. Each officer is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in his jurisdiction. The head of the department is the commissioner of police.

14. ARMY — The Baroda army consists of regular and irregular troops. The maximum strength of the former is 3,906 (effectives) — cavalry 735, infantry 3,105, band 61, and 5 staff officers.

15. FINANCE — Till 1875, the finances of the State rested on the twin system of revenue farming and the potdari. The State did not collect its revenues, but auctioned the right of collection to the highest bidder; nor did it maintain a treasury of its own, but drew upon accredited bankers for such sums as it required, and for repayment,

granted them letters of credit on some farmer of revenue. On these transactions the State paid a heavy rate of interest and a commission. Sometimes the Maharajas themselves were bankers to the State.

One of the earliest reforms of Sir T. Madhavrao was to abolish the potdari system and establish an accounts department. The accounts department, under the accountant general, has now four sections : finance, investment, accounts, and audit. It prepares the budget statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure for the coming year, keeps the government informed of the chief causes of fluctuations, and with the help of the budget committee, advises government on all questions affecting the finances of the State; submits to government a reappropriation report, explaining the reasons of the variations. It attends to the investment of surplus funds, and in this work it is advised by an investment committee and financial experts. It tabulates receipts and expenditure under prescribed heads, and compiles monthly and annual statements of accounts. It audits accounts of all government offices, in Baroda City on pre-audit and elsewhere on post-audit system.

16. STATE RESERVES — In 1938-39, the government adopted two important measures as a result of the examination of the finances of the State, following the reduction in the land revenue of Rs. 23·65 lakhs, and the concession of Rs. 3·04 lakhs in favour of prant panchayats made that year.

(i) *The constitution of a State reserve fund :* Out of the liquid assets of the State, Rs. 350 lakhs were set apart to form a reserve. This amount will be utilised for schemes of remunerative capital expenditure.

(ii) *The formation of a Land Revenue equalisation fund :* As land revenue forms the main source of income of the State, seasonal vicissitudes had serious repercussions on the budget estimates. To avoid such dislocations, this fund has been created, taking normal realisations from land revenue at Rs. 95 lakhs. If the actual realisations exceed this standard, the excess is added to the fund; if the receipts fall short, the deficit is made good by drawing upon it. To start with, the fund was credited with Rs. 50 lakhs from the savings of the State. Fluctuations under land revenue thus cannot affect the activities of the development departments, or restrict the range of social services rendered by the State.

17. AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT — The agricultural department was founded in 1909, in sympathy with the general movement in the country, following the great famines of 1899-1901, to improve the methods of agriculture. Till recently, however, the policy towards agricultural development, was to wait and watch the results of scientific

work obtained at the British institutions, and particularly at those located in the immediate neighbourhood of the State, and to try to demonstrate improvements of proved value to the people. The agricultural department developed on these lines, however, did not prove as useful as was expected. In 1936, therefore, a new policy was adopted : of vigorous technical development, and an equally vigorous propaganda to carry the knowledge of improved agriculture to every agriculturist of the State. A technical expert of great experience was appointed commissioner of agriculture, and the department expanded to meet the new needs. A measure of the development of the department is the increase in its expenditure from Rs. 1.8 lakhs in 1934-35 to Rs. 12.16 lakhs in the year under report.

For administrative purposes the State is divided into the northern and southern circles, each under a deputy director. The different sections: agricultural chemistry, engineering, marketing, horticulture and animal husbandry and veterinary relief are also in charge of qualified officers.

18. CO-OPERATION—The Co-operative Credit Societies Act was passed in the State in 1905, a year after the enactment of a similar law in British India. This act provided for the organisation of credit societies, only. It was amended in 1912, to permit the organisation of non-credit societies as well. The expansion of the co-operative movement to embrace all aspects of village life and form centres for rural development, has been a notable feature of its development in recent years. The number of societies in the State is now 1,487, with 1,25,000 members and a working capital of Rs. 199 lakhs. It has been calculated that 19 per cent of the population is directly affected by the movement 10 per cent of rural and 45 per cent of urban population. The registrar of co-operative societies is assisted by two assistant registrars and 22 auditors.

19. COMMERCE—The commerce department deals with commerce and is in charge of the activities connected with the ports of the State. The customs agreement of 1936 with the Government of India set at rest a long pending dispute in regard to the customs' rights of the State.

20. INDUSTRIES—The department of industries is maintained to implement the government's policy of active assistance in starting new, or developing existing industries. This assistance extends in several directions. The department takes a share in industrial research work; provides technical assistance to industrialists; conducts surveys, and supplies information to the public; examines applications for special concessions and grants of loans to industries, or for assistance by participation in the share capital of pioneer industries, or for concessions, such as acquisition of land, remission of octroi duty, supply of cheap power and water.

In the administration of the Boiler Act and the Factories Act, the director of industries is assisted by a boiler inspector and a labour officer.

For the revival and development of cottage industries, the government maintain a central institute, the Diamond Jubilee Cottage Industries Institute at Baroda, and a large number of special training classes in villages, and give grant-in-aid to private institutions working towards this object.

21. STATISTICS—The statistics department was constituted in 1935. It compiles statistics useful to industrial and commercial classes and the State. It is also in charge of the administration of the Companies Act, the Insurance Act and the insurance of state servants.

22. FORESTS—The total area of forests in the State is 712 square miles. The area is divided into nine ranges for administration. Of these, five are in the Navsari district and one in each of the other districts. The work of conservation and exploitation is controlled by a conservator of forests and two assistants.

23. FISHERIES — The fisheries department was created in 1937. The director is assisted by an assistant director and a small technical staff. The work mainly consists of improving the food supply of the people, by developing both marine and fresh water fisheries of the State, the introduction of new fishery industries, and the improvement of the material and moral condition of the fishing community.

24. EDUCATION — The history of education in the State begins in 1871, when for the first time two Gujarati and two Marathi schools were opened by the government. Four years later, the vernacular education department was formed under the vidyadhisthan. The progress was at first slow, and when Sayajirao III assumed full powers in 1881, there were no more than 180 primary schools with 7,465 pupils. Under his inspiration, however, education developed rapidly. In 1893, compulsory primary education was introduced as an experimental measure in the Amreli district, and rapidly extended, till in 1906 it was made applicable to the whole State. Education is now free and compulsory between the ages of 7 and 12, and all primary education upto class V is free.

The education department controls and supervises the entire primary education in the State. In this the vidyadhisthan, commissioner of education, is assisted by an assistant commissioner, and six divisional inspectors, each in charge of a division, and two inspectresses of girls' schools. Under these district inspectors there are 31 deputy inspectors, and special deputy inspectors for Urdu, Antyaj and

Raniparaj schools. Compulsion is enforced by fines imposed by head masters and is based on the list of children of school going age, drawn up in each village by the patel and the school master. The fines do not form revenues of the State, but are credited to a separate fund, which is utilised for constructing school buildings and awarding scholarships.

Secondary, university and technical education are also under the commissioner of education, as also all government educational institutions such as the museum, the libraries, the Oriental Institute and the music and sanskrit schools. There are, however, directors or curators in charge of each of these sections to assist him.

There are 2,563 government primary schools with 6,746 teachers and 41 government secondary schools with 477 teachers. There is a special inspector for secondary schools. There are 4 colleges affiliated to the Bombay University and many new colleges, a medical college, an engineering college and three more arts colleges, are being started. Technical education is provided for at the Kalabhavan, the central technical institute, and several technical schools in the districts.

25. LIBRARY MOVEMENT — Perhaps the most important development in education in recent years, is the establishment of a network of village libraries throughout the State. The genesis of the district library movement lies in the fact, realised after some years of experience of compulsory education, that a boy or a girl who has passed the fifth standard Gujarati, lapses into illiteracy within a few years, unless opportunities are provided to him or her to continue reading. The government, therefore, adopted a policy of providing with a library every village where there is a school, the help given by government and district boards being equal to contribution raised by the village; and for annual expenses, government gives a grant equal to the contribution raised by the library. With this object mofussil libraries are grouped under three classes : district libraries receive upto Rs. 700; town libraries upto Rs. 300; and village libraries upto Rs. 100. Women's libraries and children's receive grant on the basis of village libraries and reading rooms upto Rs. 50. Under this policy, the number of district libraries rose from 697 in 1930 to 1,514 in 1945. Besides this, there is the travelling libraries' section which serves about 375 centres. The population served by the libraries now forms 100 per cent of the town population, and 78.27 per cent of the village, and 82.6 per cent of the population of the State as a whole.

26. MEDICAL DEPARTMENT — The medical department was organised in 1876, when a few medical graduates were appointed. Between 1881 and 1919, an extensive programme to provide all district towns with hospitals, and all taluka towns with dispensaries was carried out. The same period saw the establishment of two

great hospitals in the City : The Countess of Dufferin Hospital in 1886, and the State General Hospital in 1907. In 1919, a programme was adopted for opening dispensaries in rural areas, so that medical help would be available within five miles of every village. The programme has been completed and 69 new dispensaries established. These dispensaries are in charge of L. C. P. S. sub-assistant surgeons and the others in that of medical graduates. There are now 126 medical institutions—one for 64.9 square miles or 22,659 of the population, 158 sub-assistant surgeons, 169 nurses and midwives, and 109 compounders.

The Maharani Shanta Devi Trust Fund : A separate trust, associated with the name of Her Highness Maharani Shanta Devi, has been created, which extends the facilities now available for medical aid for women and children. The government have transferred to the trust Rs. 5 lakhs, and contribute every year about Rs. 50,000, of which Rs. 10,000 is from the Sayajirao III Memorial Fund. The trust has so far sanctioned twenty four medical institutions for women besides a separate children's hospital attached to the general hospital in Baroda City.

27. SANITARY DEPARTMENT — Sanitation forms the principal function of municipalities in towns and village panchayats. The municipalities are assisted by sanitary committees, consisting of municipal members and others. The village panchayats are guided by district sanitary inspectors. The sanitary commissioner exercises a general supervision, in which he is assisted by two assistant commissioners. He is also in charge of the work connected with vital statistics.

Vaccination and revaccination at the age of 8 is now compulsory in the whole of Baroda State.

28. PUBLIC WORKS — The public works department, formerly known as Imarat Karkhana, was constituted in 1877, and an ambitious programme of public buildings, irrigation and gardens was undertaken. In 1885, a separate branch for the development of irrigation works was created and during the next thirty five years, old irrigation tanks were renovated and no less than 23 new ones constructed at the cost of Rs. 52 lakhs. They were designed to supply water to over 100,000 bighas. These have, however, not been altogether successful.

The department is organised in five sections : civil, architecture, mechanical and boring, irrigation and gardens, each under a qualified officer, with the chief engineer at the head. For the civil branch, the chief engineer is assisted by a superintending engineer. The State is divided into the city, and four divisions, each in charge of an executive engineer, Okhamandal being under the Harbour Board for

public works purposes. The executive engineers control the district staff, consisting of 26 sub-divisional officers. These are employed on irrigation and other public works.

29. RAILWAYS — Baroda was among the earliest of the States to initiate a regular system of railways. The first line was opened in 1869 between Miyagam and Dabhoi. Since then a network of railways has been constructed in the State, and to-day Baroda has for its area the largest mileage in India—795 miles, of which 21.42 miles are broad-gauge, 345.64 miles meter-gauge and 428.11 miles narrow-gauge. The total capital invested is Rs. 5.92 crores.

30. ELECTRICITY — The department has two sections : electricity proper, and telephones. The principal undertaking of the department is the city electric supply. Besides this, there are electric supply concerns at Petlad, Okha and Gandevi, and water lifting stations at Manekpur and Umrar. The telephone section controls the telephone systems of Baroda City, Navsari, Billimora, Petlad, Dabhoi, Kalol and Mehsana.

31. STATIONERY AND PRINTING — The supply of stationery to all government offices is controlled by the manager, State Press. The printing work for government is done at the State Press established in 1924.

32. BOARDS AND COMMITTEES — Besides those described in the previous paragraphs, the following are some of the important boards and committees working in the State:—

- (i) *The Services Committee* — All appointments to posts, not filled by promotion, are made on the recommendations of the services committee. The committee consists of a naib dewan, who is the president, the commissioner of education, the accountant general and the principal of the Baroda College. The chief secretary to government is a member and secretary.
- (ii) *The Budget Committee* — To scrutinise, check and revise the estimates of the different departments and all proposals involving expenditure, the Budget Committee was constituted in 1930. Its chief function is to examine into the details of State expenditure, without criticising the policy. It is presided over by a naib dewan and the accountant general, two retired officers of the State, and not more than three persons nominated by the Huzur are members.
- (iii) *The Education Board* — The board is constituted to consider and discuss important questions concerning the development of education in the State. It studies

problems regarding the syllabus in State schools, vocational and adult education, finance and the like. There are 15 members on the board, of whom more than 10 are non-official members representing all sections and communities.

Local self-government

33. VILLAGE PANCHAYATS — The new system of administration of land revenue, justice and police deprived the village organisations of much of their power and usefulness. But Baroda can pride itself on the fact, that from the beginning steps were taken to preserve the self-government of the village. Panchayats were constituted in all villages, and entrusted with powers and duties, which they had enjoyed by custom, and funds provided for them.

Since then, from time to time the panchayats have been reorganised, their constitution made more liberal, and their resources and powers extended.

To-day, every village with a population of more than 500 has its own panchayat ; smaller villages are grouped together, and a common panchayat organised for them. Two thirds of the members are elected under a very wide franchise. The patel is the ex-officio president, but the panchayats appoint their own secretaries and treasurers. They enjoy power of supervision over village affair and institutions, and are in charge of village sanitation, water supply and drainage. They are entrusted with revenue functions, such as ordinary cases of mutations of lands, giving permission to build, and a few of them have been given power to try civil and criminal cases. A portion of the local cess, contributions by prant panchayats, and certain items of government revenue, such as sale proceeds of grass, trees etc., form their main sources of income.

34. DISTRICT BOARDS — In 1904, the system of representative institutions was extended to districts, and prant panchayats or district boards constituted. The prant panchayats now consist of a majority of members elected on a wide franchise. They have been entrusted with the construction of roads, wells, cattle troughs, dharmashalas, and schools, and with sanitation and public health. Since 1939, they elect their presidents. They have their own engineering staff. Formerly, they were entrusted with full control over primary schools, but they were not found suitable agency for enforcing compulsion, and the control was resumed. They, however, continued to pay a third of the local cess towards education till 1939, when to strengthen their resources and enable them to undertake works of importance, they were relieved of this (Rs. 2.75 lakhs) as well as of their contribution of Rs. 0.29 lakhs towards veterinary services. This added Rs. 3.04 lakhs to their resources. The total income of five prant panchayats is about Rs. 9 lakhs.

35. THE BARODA MUNICIPALITY — Previous to the Municipal Act of 1892, there were no self-governing institutions, for the management of municipal affairs in towns. In that year, the principle of election was introduced in the Baroda Municipality. Its present constitution is based on the Act of 1905, which separated the executive and the deliberative functions, conferred considerable financial powers, and increased the elected members from half to two thirds. Since then, its powers, responsibilities and privileges have been extended, and it now elects its own president. Except for such matters as taxation, making rules and bye-laws, the municipality enjoys independent powers. Its income, including a government grant of Rs. 1.25 lakhs, is about Rs. 15 lakhs.

36. DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES — In other towns, there was no municipal government in any real sense, prior to the Municipal Act of 1905, which was based on the Bombay Municipal Act III of 1901. Under this Act, municipalities are classed "A" and "B" according to their size, importance and fitness for self-government. The proportion of elected members differs slightly in these two and the presidents in both cases were, till recently, government officials. Since 1939, however, all the "A" and some of "B" class municipalities, have been allowed to elect their presidents. In the early days, the sole source of income of these bodies was government grants, but these have been largely discontinued, and municipalities are empowered to levy house tax, octroi and such other duties. There are eleven "A" class and thirty "B" class municipalities. The total income of "A" class municipalities is about Rs. 8 lakhs and of "B" class about Rs. 5.5 lakhs.

The system of land revenue

37. SETTLEMENT OF RYOTWARI LANDS — In the earlier days, districts were annually farmed out to the highest bidders, and the cultivator enjoyed neither security of tenure nor of assessment. Sayajirao III's most memorable reform was the settlement of the lands on a just and equitable basis. In this, he followed the Bombay system and the principles formulated in the Joint Report of 1847.

38. OCCUPANCY RIGHTS — In Baroda territories, as in those comprising the Province of Bombay the common tenure was the ryotwari tenure, under which the occupant of land deals directly with government, and is responsible for the payment of revenues, assessed only on his own holding. This tenure was accepted as the basis of the new system. The rights, which the occupant enjoys over his occupancy, were stated, and are now defined in the Baroda Land Revenue Code. The occupancy can be inherited, sold, burdened with debt, relinquished or otherwise alienated. In certain parts of the State, however, laws have been passed in the interest of backward classes, restricting the right of alienation. These are described in the chapter on social and economic legislation.

39. SURVEY — To define precisely the lands in respect of which these rights are given, an accurate survey is necessary. The arable land, whether cultivated or not, is therefore, split up into fields or survey numbers, the "field" being an artificial unit of such a size as would make for flexibility of transfer of land and permit the ryot to contract or enlarge his holding according to his resources. The maximum size is ordinarily eight bighas of dry and three of wet land. The fields are measured with chain and cross staff and their boundaries fixed by official boundary marks. The record of the survey is preserved and maintained by an elaborate system of maps and measurements. In the surveys that were carried out, it was necessary to split up holdings larger than the standard size, and combine holdings of less than a minimum area. Subordinate shares within a survey number were measured, assessed and demarcated as pot-numbers.

40. SETTLEMENT — The settlement of the revenue is made taluka by taluka, at long intervals of 15–30 years, by officers appointed specially for the purpose, and once made, remains unchanged for the period for which the guarantee has been given. The revenue officer has normally nothing more to do than administer it.

The conditions at the time of the original settlements did not justify settlements for a period longer than fifteen years. There was much waste land, rents were low, cultivation was fluctuating, and there was likelihood of a rapid development of resources owing to the construction of roads and railways, an increase in population, a rise in prices and the establishment of peace and order in the State. These considerations, however, did not prevail to the same extent at the time of the revision settlements which, therefore, were invariably made for thirty years.

The settlement is based on the principle that "land should be assessed in accordance with its capabilities." Such a settlement involves two distinct processes :—

- (i) *The determination of the aggregate amount of assessment for a taluka :* The main considerations, which guide the settlement officer in determining whether the existing assessment of a taluka is suitable or requires to be modified, are its rainfall, the state of communications and markets, the class of cultivation and the state of husbandry, the revenue history including statistics of demand, collection, remissions, arrears and coercive measures, and the expansion or contraction in the area occupied as indicating the pressure of assessment. The statistics of rents, sales and mortgages, as indicating the proportion of assessment to the profit of agriculture, and the movement of prices indicate the extent to which the aggregate may be modified.

(ii) *Distribution of the aggregate* : The aggregate having been determined, the next operation consists of apportioning the aggregate to the various fields or survey numbers, according to their relative values. The circumstances affecting the values of fields within the same village are three: their natural productive capabilities, irrigation facilities and position with respect to the village. Lands are, accordingly, divided into classes on lines familiar to the cultivator—dry crop and irrigated—and each class further classified according to factors that affect their natural productivity, depth, texture and quality of the soil, irrigation facilities etc. Fields are examined and their relative value in respect to these factors is expressed in terms of anna valuation, or fractional shares calculated in sixteenths. Irrigation facilities, such as wells, in the earlier settlements were taxed by additional assessment on the fields they served. But this, as it amounted to a tax on improvements, was against government's policy of taxing only the natural capabilities of the soil, and the system lent itself to easy evasion. In later settlements, therefore, the system of subsoil rate was adopted. Water facility is considered as one of the fertilizing elements of the soil, and included in the soil classification, according to the depth and quality of the subsoil water. A light burden is thus imposed on all who enjoy land possessing irrigation facilities, instead of a heavy rate on those only, who made their use. The system has relieved the cultivator of all apprehension regarding assessment of well improvements, and has provided an impetus to the construction of wells.

The calculation of the assessment each survey number should bear, according to its capacity as expressed by classification, is a purely arithmetical process. But in doing so, the relative situation of the villages of the taluka in respect of climate, communications and markets and such other enduring factors, is considered. The taluka is divided into groups of villages and the aggregate apportioned between group and group in relation to these advantages and disadvantages.

These were the principles on which the original settlements of the talukas of the State were made between 1880 and 1901, mostly by two officers of the Bombay Government, Mr. Elliot and Mr. Seddon.

41. REVISION SETTLEMENTS — Periodical revisions, though based on the same principles, raises the fundamental question with regard to

taxation of improvements. The policy of the Baroda Government is defined in the land revenue code and the revision settlement rules. These enactments secure to the cultivator in perpetuity, the whole of the profit arising from improvements in his land carried out at his own cost, such as wells and tanks; and he is secured against an increase in assessment, on account of improvement in the soil or conversion of dry land into kyari, by provisions in the revision settlement rules, under which lands are not to be reclassified, except when there has been a change of a permanent nature in the physical features of the soil over a fairly large area. Enhancements at settlements are fixed solely on the basis of a general rise in prices of standard crops, and the policy is to see that assessments are raised only moderately—the agriculturist being allowed a proportion of the benefit due to increase in prices.

+2. SUSPENSION AND REMISSION — In a fixed cash settlement, the government revenue represents the sum that may fairly be demanded on an average of seasons, and it is assessed in the belief, that cultivators will save from the surplus of good years to meet the deficit in bad. It is, however, difficult to make allowances for failure of crops in framing the assessment rates; nor have the agriculturists as a rule learnt to regard good harvests, as a means of insurance against bad years. The revenue system of the State has, therefore, recognised the necessity of special arrangements for relaxation in realisation of the revenue demand, where there is serious failure of crops. With a view to ascertain the correct yield in any season, a procedure has been laid down whereby the yield in different crops is ascertained as annis, proportioned to the normal yield of the particular crop in the tract concerned.

The Settlement of barkhali (alienated) lands

+3. ORIGIN OF BARKHALI LANDS — In the times of trouble preceding the establishment of ordered government in the State, the right of alienating lands was assumed by farmers of revenue and executive officers of all grades even down to patels. Repeated efforts were made by the government to prevent these alienations but to no purpose. By 1875, the extent of alienated lands in the State was considerable. The settlement of these lands was organised in 1889, and rules were formulated, which are still in force. Inquiry into individual cases was not made, the government preferring, as in Bombay, a summary settlement according to certain principles. All lands acquired before 1826, the year in which Sayajirao II had issued orders forbidding alienations, were charged a quit rent of 2 annas, and others of 4 annas and where title to land was recognised, sanads were given guaranteeing succession to direct and collateral heirs and recognising adoption.

44. KINDS OF BARKHALI LANDS — The barkhali lands, to which this settlement referred, consist of four kinds of inams: personal, devasthan, hereditary service and political.

- (a) *Personal*: These inams were given as gifts to persons out of favour or for past service. Such, for instance, are jat dharma-daya lands bestowed on Brahmins, Bhatts, Charans, etc.; or the wazeefa lands granted by Muslim governments to pious persons or for past services. Such grants were continued unconditionally.
- (b) *Devasthan lands*: Lands alienated for the maintenance of temples, mosques and such other religious or charitable institutions of a permanent character are devasthan inams. These were continued permanently free of assessment, except in cases where the temples or images had ceased to exist.
- (c) *Service grants*: There are three distinct classes of service grants:
 - (i) Dharmadaya chakariat were lands given for worship or as payment for services at religious or charitable institutions. As these inams were given to individuals, the reason for a total or a permanent exemption from revenue did not apply. Therefore, the inams were continued only in the family to which they had been given and permanent alienation was prohibited.
 - (ii) Vatans were grants for performance of civil duties. These inamdar were deeply in debt and had mortgaged their property, and all except muzumdar and a few desais, had long ceased to render any service themselves, and sent low paid clerks instead. Measures were adopted to rehabilitate them. A settlement of their remuneration on a fair, intelligible and stable basis was made, their service and its nature defined, and rules framed for regulating succession. A similar settlement of inami villages was also made.
 - (iii) Chakariat lands were given for village service and are, strictly speaking, not alienated lands. They are assigned in lieu of cash payments. When the settlement was undertaken, some of the larger villages had no government assistance towards guarding field produce, and others towards conservancy, and so forth. Most of the village servants had mortgaged or sold their lands. So, the two main points of settlement were: (a) an equal distribution of village services among all towns and villages according to population, revenue, and geographical position, and, (b) a choice for

all village servants to accept their remuneration in cash or in shape of freedom from assessment on such lands as they held. Most preferred cash remuneration as they had sold or mortgaged their lands. At the same time, the services of darjis, dhobis, mochis, malis and priests were dispensed with, and their lands resumed.

- (d) *Political inams* : These were given for political considerations.

45. ADANIA — Besides these, there was an extensive alienation of land in the form of mortgage tenure — adania. The patels, in order to raise funds to meet their liabilities, sold (vechania) or mortgaged (gharania) government lands for trifling sums, guaranteeing total exemption from assessment. The vast extent of such lands in the Mehsana and Baroda districts made a solution of the problem difficult. In their settlement the government followed a liberal policy: they determined to redeem what they had a right to resume. In Mehsana the lands were resumed for a consideration which varied according as alienation dated before or after 1826. In the Baroda district there was much more vechania land than gharania. The government continued indefinitely, on payment of fixed charges, all such lands acquired before 1826; and those acquired after 1826 were continued for two lives.

46. NON-RYOTWARI TENURES — Though ryotwari is the common tenure in the State, two other forms, corresponding to village and zamindari tenures, are also found.

- (i) *The narvadari and bhagdari tenures* : Both these involve a joint responsibility for payment of government revenues. The bhagdari tenure, however, differs from the narvadari in that in the former, each field is separately assessed and the village pays the sum of the field assessments, while in narvadari, the revenue is fixed in the lump on the village. But in neither case does the contribution of the sharers to the revenue bear any relation to the land they hold at present. They continue to bear the same share of the total revenue as originally. The persons cultivating the lands of these villages are tenants, not of government but of the bhagdars. The customary tenants, however, cannot be ejected so long as they pay the customary rental. The government seldom interfere between the bhagdars and the tenants.
- (ii) *Ankdabandi and ekankdi* : In ankdabandi villages a lump sum is assessed on the whole village and recovered from the headman of the village or the whole body of proprietors. In ekankdi villages the government demand is

permanently settled. The government did not interfere in the internal fiscal management of such villages till recently. In 1934, however, government found it necessary to enact the Ankadia Villages' Tenants Act. This measure protect the 'permanent' and 'occupancy' tenants from eviction, so long as they pay the rent and do not commit acts of 'waste.'

Social and economic structure of the State (excluding the attached areas)

47. OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION — The area of the State is 8,176 square miles, and the population 2,855,000. The density of population varies from district to district. It is +18 to the square mile in the Baroda district, 383 in Mehsana, 257 in Navsari, 193 in Amreli and 152 in Okhamandal. The average for the whole State is 349 to the square mile.

The distribution of population between urban and rural is in the ratio of 1:4. The rural population lives in 2,894 villages of which 1,401 have a population of less than 500. There is a marked tendency to migrate from small congested villages to the towns, a tendency which is evident from the increase in the number of 'towns' from 50 in 1931 to 64 in 1941. Many of these towns are mere distributing centres, and the increase in the number does not signify corresponding industrial progress. Indeed, the predominance of agriculture as a means of livelihood has yet been little affected and 64·6 per cent of the population are engaged in it. Of the remaining 35·4 per cent, industries absorb 13·3 per cent, exploitation of minerals 0·1, transport 1·9, trade 8·1, professions and liberal arts 3·5, public administration 1·6, public force 1·7, domestic services 1·1, while 0·6 live on their own income, 0·5 are unproductive and 3·0 follow insufficiently described occupations.

48. AGRICULTURE — The agriculturist is the backbone of the State, and the strength of the rural society lies in the large number of proprietor farmers. It is a noteworthy fact that the proportion of these to those living directly on the land is double that in British Gujarat, and four times as high as in the Province of Bombay. The distribution in different grades to 1,000 workers on the land is as follows:—

Non-cultivating proprietor	...	...	17
Cultivating proprietor	...	...	420
Tenant cultivators	...	...	31
Agricultural labourers	...	...	166
Total	...		634

Making also for the strength of rural economy is the high percentage of earners and working dependents to the population. It is 49.5 per cent in the State as against 42.5 per cent in British Gujarat, 39.2 per cent in the Province of Bombay and 43.6 per cent in India.

The number of women who supplement the income of their families is in Baroda State exceptionally high - 744 to every 1,000, as against 567 in British Gujarat and 428 in the Province of Bombay. In those parts of the country, where custom and caste insist on seclusion of women, such a state of affairs would indicate adverse economic conditions, but in Gujarat no such sentiments prevail, and the large number of women supplementing the income of their families adds strength to the economic structure.

These factors make for the strength of rural economy. On the other hand, there are three main factors which are a source of weakness to the rural society: (i) The first is the inadequacy of the average holding. The average holding in the State is only four acres (in British Gujarat it is five), and the area of crop per head of population 1.35 acres (British Gujarat 1.36); and this problem is accentuated by fragmentation and subdivision. The measures taken to prevent further subdivision and to consolidate small holdings have been defeated by sentiment, laws of inheritance and succession, and absence of diversified occupations. (ii) The second source of weakness is the absence of irrigation facilities. The irrigated area constitutes only 6 per cent of the area of the State - a feature which is common to both the State and British Gujarat. (iii) The excessive number of cattle is another disadvantage. The number of cattle to 100 acres sown is almost double what it should be. In Baroda State it is 46 and in British Gujarat 50, while the area under fodder crops is only 2 per cent of the area sown. These factors, and the unfamiliarity of the farmers with scientific methods of cultivation had affected injuriously the position of the cultivator. His difficulties were increased by the fall in prices in the pre-war years and he became heavily indebted - the extent of his indebtedness cannot be stated with any accuracy, but, as in the rest of India, it was heavy. The rise in prices during the last 3 years has, however, brought him considerable prosperity, as evidenced by the repayment of his debts on a large scale, by larger deposits in co-operative societies and in the savings banks. The government also are taking substantial measures to improve agriculture and to strengthen rural economy. They are pledged to develop co-operative credit. Irrigation works are being constructed all over the State. Large irrigation schemes based on the Sabarmati and Zankharsi rivers are waiting the end of the war to begin construction; the Vijapur tube well irrigation scheme costing in its experimental stage Rs. 10 lakhs is already in operation; on perennial rivers electric installations for pumping water are set up. A comprehensive programme for the improvement of irrigation tanks in the Mehsana district has been

recently completed. In the Amreli district, wells are being dynamited to yield larger supplies. Rabari colonies have been established to improve the breed of cattle and increase fodder supply. These and other measures which the State is taking are described in later chapters of the report.

49. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT— Industrially Baroda State is an advanced area in India as shown by the following table:—

	Factory operatives	
	1945	1921
Textile	32,982	8,130
Chemicals	4,233	201
Building industries (including cement, stone quarries, bricks and tiles).	1,718	143
Miscellaneous	4,359	2,739

The total amount of paid up capital of joint stock companies (excluding foreign insurance companies) working in the State has increased from Rs. 152 lakhs in 1921 to Rs. 2,014 lakhs in 1944. A noteworthy feature of this industrial development is that it is broad based. There are eighteen cotton mills, one woollen mill, two cotton and silk weaving factories. There is a large chemical industry, the Tata Chemicals in Okhamandal, the Alembic in Baroda, the Hindusthan Chemical and Colour Works and several other smaller concerns. The cement factory at Dwarka produces about 2,00,000 tons a year and the Okha Salt Works 75,000 tons of salt. There is one match factory, a sugar factory, oil mills and a number of miscellaneous industries.

50. RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS— Almost all religious denominations of India are found in the State. Of the total population, 2,560,000 or 89.34 per cent are Hindus, including 373,000 or 13 per cent Tribal, 224,000 or 7.83 per cent Muslims, 47,000 Jains, 9,500 Christians, 6,900 Parsis, and 2,400 Tribal. The spread of education and of liberal ideas has softened the edges and angularities of different faiths, and created a broad sense of toleration, which has strengthened the tradition of communal harmony in the State.

51. CHILD MARRIAGES— The result of thirty eight years of the Child Marriage Prevention Act is that marriages below the age of ten are practically non-existent, and child marriages below the penalised age have decreased from 33.2 per cent in 1916-20 to 14 per cent in 1936-40, in spite of the age having been raised. The working and effect of this law is reviewed in the chapter on Social and Economic Legislation.

52. LITERACY — Under compulsory education, which has been in force in the State for almost 40 years, literacy has been making steady and substantial progress. It has increased by 50 per cent during the decade 1930–40. There are now 653,000 literates, 482,000 males and 171,000 females and 161,000 partially literate. Thus 285 per mille of the population are literate. On a system of universal primary education, a fairly widespread system of secondary education has been built up. The literates in English, according to the census of 1941, numbered 56,950 – 52,300 males and 4,650 females. These figures do not bring out two important social consequences of compulsory education. In the State there is an exceptionally large proportion of the backward classes, the Raniparaj, Thakardas, Barias, Kolis, etc. : these constitute about 38 per cent. Largely, however, as the result of free and compulsory education, the inequalities seen elsewhere between "backward" and "advanced" communities do not exist in the State. Literacy among the Antyaj is 16·9 per cent as compared with the general literacy of 26·7 per cent and among Muslims it is 30·2 per cent. At the top of the educational scale are Vanias and Brahmans with high rates of literacy, but they form only 8 per cent of the population. Excepting this the literacy amongst the body of the population is fairly evenly spread. This has bridged the gulf between class and class and made relations easier.

The second important social gain of the compulsory system is the advanced state of literacy among the women of the younger generation. Though the census figures show the female literacy to be only 12·4 per cent as against male literacy of 32·8 per cent the position is really much less unfavourable. Once the initial obstacles imposed by custom were overcome, literacy among women increased rapidly. In the 1930–40 decade it has shown the remarkable progress of 114·2 per cent as against 35·8 per cent among males and in English education, the even more remarkable progress of 151·9 per cent as against 73·1 per cent for males.

Similarly the number of girls attending primary schools has been for a number of years, in relation to their population, almost equal to that of the boys : 1,61,953 boys and 1,18,078 girls.

The social consequences of this have been important. That the Government have been able to enact social legislation, in advance of the rest of India, is due to a large extent to the influence these educated women are exercising on society.

CHAPTER II

THE PALACE

53. BIRTH OF SHRIMANT MAHARAJ KUMAR SAYAJIRAO— There was great rejoicing in the State over the birth of a son, to Her Highness Maharani Sita Devi on 8th March 1945 at Bombay. The naming ceremony was held on the 20th March.

54. VISITS ETC.— His Highness the Maharaja visited Delhi as guest of Sir Francis Wylie, Political Adviser to His Excellency the Crown Representative on 14th August 1945. On his way to Delhi, he visited His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal at Bhopal. In September 1944, he visited Her Highness the Regent Chhatrapati Maharani of Kolhapur at Kolhapur and later, visited Delhi, for the meeting of the Chamber of Princes. He performed the opening ceremony of the tennis courts of the Bombay Presidency Radio Club on 28th October 1944 and of the exhibition of the Bombay Art Society on 16th November 1944 in Bombay. He also visited Madras.

On the advice of his doctors, he left for England by plane on 29th April and reached London on 5th May 1945. His subjects were much concerned to hear of His Highness' ill health.

He was received in audience by His Majesty the King Emperor on 24th May 1945.

His Highness paid a visit on the 20th June 1945 to the Baroda squadron of the Royal Air Force, which gave him an enthusiastic welcome.

Her Highness Maharani Shantadevi attended important meetings of Shri Shantadevi Trust for the relief of women and children and the Anti-tuberculosis Association of which she is president. She also visited the Maharani Chimnabai Industrial Home and other institutions and encouraged them in their work of social welfare and upliftment.

Her Highness inaugurated the All India Music Conference on 14th December 1944, the State Women's Conference on 10th March 1945 and the Women's Sports Federation Conference on 27th July 1945.

She performed the prize distribution ceremony of several gymkhana and schools, chief among them, the All India Olympic Sports on 30th December 1944, the Maharani Chimnabai Ladies' Club on 21st March 1945 and the Maharani Girls High school on 6th March 1945.

Her Highness visited Navsari on 16th March 1945 to open the new building of the Maharani Shantadevi Ladies' and Children's Library. During the visit she received addresses of welcome from numerous public institutions.

Accompanied by Shrimant Yuvraj and Shrimant Maharaj Kumaris Mrinalinidevi and Pramilaraje, Her Highness visited Fort Songadh. It was during this trip that Shrimant Yuvraj shot his first tiger in Satkashi jungles. Her Highness left for Ootacamand on 30th April 1945 for the hot weather, and during the trip visited the Rani of Sandur and the Raja and Rani of Kollengode.

Her Highness Maharani Sitadevi accompanied His Highness to Poona and Madras.

Shrimant Yuvraj inaugurated on behalf of his father, the 29th session of the Rotary International conference held at Baroda on 4th March 1945, and read His Highness' message to the Rotarians. In this message His Highness commended the Rotary ideal of "Service above Self" in the following inspiring words :—

" On the return of peace, we, in India, shall have to face a large number of pressing problems and I feel that the Rotary movement can make an important contribution in their solution. We shall have to wage a ceaseless war against the evils of ignorance, disease and poverty, and I can only urge on you, Rotarians, with your ideals of service, to play a worthy part in this noble war."

55. DISTINGUISHED VISITORS — Numerous distinguished visitors attended the birthday celebrations of His Highness in January 1945, among whom were His Highness Maharajadhiraj Raj Rajeshwar Sawai Shri Yeshwantrao Holkar Bahadur G. C. I. E., His Highness the Nawab of Cambay and the Nawab Zaheer Yar Jung from Hyderabad (Deccan), The Rani of Sandur and Major General C. O. Harvey, Military Advisor-in-Chief, Indian States Forces, also visited Baroda.

CHAPTER III

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

56. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL — Mr. B. A. Gackwar, C. I. E. acted as dewan and president of the council till 31st March 1945. He was succeeded by Sir B. L. Mitter, K. C. S. I., who took charge on 1st April 1945. The post of vice-president of the council was created and Mr. Gackwar became vice-president and education member.

The post of post war reconstruction member was created from 1st October 1944 and Mr. S. V. Mukerjea was appointed to it. He was succeeded by Sir Robert Allan.

The other members of the council were :—

Revenue member : Mr. R. S. Mane Patil.

Law member : Mr. M. V. Desai.

Development member : Mr. D. R. Daboo.

Col. S. M. Pagar was education member upto 31st March 1945.

57. TOURS — The Dewan and members toured in the State for 87 days to keep themselves in direct touch with rural areas.

CHAPTER IV

RELATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS

58. **GENERAL** — Baroda Government continued to be on cordial relations with the British Government and with the Governments of other Indian States.

The Baroda Residency became a first class residency on the amalgamation of the Western India States Agency and the Gujarat States Agency.

59. **RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS** — The following reciprocal arrangements were reached during the year :—

(i) With the Government of India :

- (a) for the extradition of offenders under the Hoarding and Profiteering Ordinance;
- (b) in regard to taxation of motor vehicles, other than transport vehicles. Motor vehicles, on which tax has been collected in Baroda, will be exempted from British India tax for the quarter, in which they are transferred to British territory, and vice versa.

(ii) With the Government of Bombay :

- (a) for free passage of hackney carriages licensed by the Navsari and Surat authorities and plying on the Navsari-Jalalpur and the Sayan-Kathor roads;
- (b) for plying of motor vehicles on inter-territorial routes, on the strength of countersigned permits.

(iii) With the Cochin State : for extradition of offenders on the basis of the Extradition Act (XV of 1903).

60. **PASSPORTS** — There were 343 applications for passports, of which 12 were for Europe and America and the rest for East and South Africa and other places.

61. CONFERENCES ETC.—The Baroda Government participated in

- (i) Food Conference,
- (ii) Indian Central Tobacco Committee,
- (iii) Standing Labour Committee,
- (iv) Indian Roads Congress,
- (v) Bombay-Delhi National Highways Conference,
- (vi) Conference of registrars of co-operative societies,
- (vii) Advisory Board of Archaeology,
- (viii) The 21st Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Udaipur,
- (ix) The 7th Session of the Indian History Congress held in Madras, and
- (x) The 27th Session of the Indian Economic Conference held in Delhi.

The Baroda Government continued to co-operate with the Government of India in their schemes for

- (i) health survey and development,
- (ii) locusts control,
- (iii) the prohibition of the slaughter of cattle, and
- (iv) a quinquennial census of live-stock.

The Government have also agreed to join in the Bombay electric grid scheme.

62. THANKS —The thanks of the Baroda Government are due to the Governments of India and of Bombay for providing facilities for training in hygiene and public health, medical studies, radiology and dairy work to five State officers deputed by the State.

War

63. WAR EFFORTS —The Baroda Squadron of the R. A. F. continued to build and maintain by its record the high traditions of that Force. H. M. I. S. Baroda, for which His Highness had donated £. 50,000, continued to serve in the defence of India. The Second Baroda Infantry and the Mechanical Transport section remained on active service throughout the year. Their services were highly appreciated.

The Baroda Government maintain a recruiting office in Baroda, which did useful work in supplying information and enlisting men. The State also trains war technicians in various institutions, the most important of which the Kalabhavan Training Centre has trained 678 men since the beginning of the scheme in 1940.

His Highness the Maharaja gave £. 500 for Christmas and New Year gifts to the members of the Baroda Squadron and Rs. 6,000 for providing amenities to the men of H. M. I. Ss "Baroda" and "Narbada", the two ships adopted by His Highness.

The State War gifts fund stood at the end of the year at Rs. 2.57 lakhs. Investment by the State in 3 per cent Defence Loans and Interest-Free Bonds amounted to Rs. 154.17 lakhs and Rs. 25 lakhs respectively. The total contribution of the State to the War Purposes Fund was Rs. 24.31 lakhs.

CHAPTER V

ADMINISTRATION OF ATTACHED AREAS

64. **GENERAL** — The attached areas are placed under two special officers—one at Baroda and the other at Amreli. The charge of the special officer, Baroda, consists of 51 semi-jurisdictional units and 130 non-jurisdictional estates; that of the special officer, Amreli, consists of 12 semi-jurisdictional units and 34 non-jurisdictional estates.

The following semi-jurisdictional states and talukas continued under the management of the Baroda Government during the year:—

- (i) for misrule: Tharad.
- (ii) on account of the minority of the ruler: Umota, Agar, Vakhtapur, Palaj and Satlasna,
- (iii) for other reasons: Ilol and Piplia.

The following were taken under the management of the Baroda Government during the year:—

- (i) Ambliara taluka from 9th September 1944 for misrule;
- (ii) Hapa taluka from 5th October 1944, pending a political inquiry;
- (iii) Khadali taluka at the request of the Thakore on account of ill-health for 2 years;
- (iv) Thara taluka from 17th December 1944, till those of the heirs who are minors become of age.

In the case of Zainabad on the death of the Talukdar, his minor son has been recognised and, by the gracious permission of His Highness the Maharaja, a regency, with the begum-mother as regent, has been established. A budget control, however, has been placed over the taluka during the minority.

65. **RAILWAY JURISDICTION** — The full and exclusive jurisdiction over the railway lands within the talukas and thana circles of Katosan, Naswadi, Mevli, Chhaliar, Pandu, Vernolmal and Gothda has been transferred to the Baroda Government from 10th November 1944.

66. **JUSTICE** — The high court and the district judges and sessions courts of Baroda, Mehsana and Amreli exercise in respect to the attached areas powers and functions corresponding to those exercised in Baroda State. The functions of the munsiffs are entrusted, though with limitations to the deputy special officers.

The civil and criminal work from the attached areas has not increased much the normal work of the courts. Before the high court in the civil side, there were only 1 first appeal, 7 second appeals and 2 miscellaneous appeals during the year. The total file with arrears of the district courts was 150 cases of which 93 were disposed of, and of the deputy special officer's courts was 362 of which 228 were execution applications in ordinary suits. The value of execution applications in small cause cases was Rs. 2.38 lakhs.

The criminal work before the high court consisted of 99 appeals of all kinds and referred and revision cases. Of these 89 were disposed of. The total file with arrears of the sessions courts was of 139 appeals, cases and applications of which 49 were sessions cases. During the year, 124 were disposed of. The total file with arrears of deputy special officers courts was 353 cases and applications and the disposals were 303.

67. LAW AND ORDER — Law and order was maintained and crime was checked by appropriate measures taken by the police.

The police force for the attached area consists of 122 officers and 338 men, of whom 35 are mounted police. This works out at 1 policeman to every 13 square miles or 1166 inhabitants.

Adequate measures were taken to maintain the health and discipline of the force and improve its quality.

The percentage of punishments to the strength of the force increased from 11.3 per cent to 13.9 per cent, as the result of enforcing stricter discipline. On the other hand, 42 members of the force and 6 members of the village police were rewarded for good services as against 31 and 5 respectively in the previous year. Public co-operation was generously forthcoming and 5 persons were rewarded for the assistance they gave to the force.

In spite of the difficulty of recruiting educated men, literacy in the force improved, though slightly, from 53.6 to 55.6

Crime decreased, during the year. The number of offences registered decreased from 598 to 545. These figures do not indicate the full extent of the decrease for a large number of cases under the Defence of India Act and similar measures have tended to increase the total. Grave crimes decreased by 16%, robberies from 18 to 10 and thefts from 176 to 130.

Of the 347 cases disposed of by the courts during the years, convictions were obtained in 83.5 per cent cases as against 81.6 per cent in the previous year. There were 178 cases in which property was stolen; in 71.4 per cent cases it was recovered.

68. RURAL DEVELOPMENT — A board has been constituted for the administration of the grants (for rural development) from the Diamond Jubilee Trust and the Shree Maharaja Pratapsinh Gaekwar Attached Area Development Fund amounting to Rs. 1 lakh. It consists of the 2 special officers and 3 persons from the attached area nominated by His Highness with the Minister as president.

The village works, for which a grant of Rs. 79,148 was given in the preceding year, were completed or were under execution. During the year, the board sanctioned Rs. 69,375 for wells, tanks and other village works and Rs. 7,460 as subsidies to village panchayats to be established in Kankrej, Deodar and 48 non-jurisdictional estates.

Permanent occupancy rights were given to the cultivators of the khalsa villages of the Tharad State.

69. EDUCATION — Measures found by experience to be beneficial in the State, are being introduced systematically in the attached area. New schools, 12 primary and 6 English, were opened, buildings constructed, compulsory education was extended to 13 areas having schools, the training of teachers and inspectors begun, physical education and scout movements encouraged and the library movement introduced.

The number of primary schools increased from 309 to 321 and the number of pupils from 18,762 to 19,614. In absence of compulsory education the proportion of girls to boys is only 1 to 4 - 4,104 girls and 15,570 boys. The number of English classes were 118 with 1,674 boys, 74 girls. There were only 23 libraries, none of these, however, were maintained by government.

The total expenditure on education was Rs. 2.9 lakhs as against 2.8 lakhs in the previous year.

70. PUBLIC HEALTH — There were 18 dispensaries working in the attached area. These have been taken under the supervision and control of the medical department of the State and medical stores and instruments supplied to them. The number of patients treated at these dispensaries were 183 in door and 75,480 out door.

71. PUBLIC WORKS — The following works of public utility were completed or under execution during the year in the attached area :—

- (i) Police barracks at Deodar and Lakhapadar;
- (ii) Roads from (a) Khamba to Dedan, 6 miles;
 - (b) Dharangani to Lakhapadar, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles
 - (c) Portion of the Rajkot-Bhavnagar trunk road lying within the attached area;

- (iii) School buildings at Varsoda, Pundara and Naswadi;
- (iv) Drinking water supply.

72. FLOOD RELIEF :—The floods of August 1944 caused much damage to Wadia the head quarters of Sankheda thana. Prompt measures for relief and assistance were taken.

73. EXPENDITURE — Apart from the remission of tributes amounting to Rs. 1 lakhs, and the contribution from the development funds, the expenditure from Baroda revenues on the administration and social services of the attached areas was Rs. 7·2 lakhs.

CHAPTER VI

LEGISLATION

Dhara Sabha

74. The Dhara Sabha met three times during the year, each session lasting six days :

- (i) *Winter session* — 4th to 9th December 1944 : There was heavy business before the House. Of the 10 important government bills, 3 were referred to select committees, one remained pending and 6 were passed. The single non-official bill was referred to a select committee. There were 14 motions for leave to introduce bills, but except for 2 which were withdrawn, none was considered for want of time. Of the 168 resolutions brought before the House, 22 were accepted fully or with modification, 69 were not passed, 2 were carried and the remaining 75 were not taken up for want of time.
- (ii) *Summer session* — 30th April to 5th May 1945 : There were before the House 8 official bills, 19 motions to introduce bills, 156 resolutions and 74 questions. Of the 8 official bills, 6 were passed and 2 referred to select committees; in 6 cases leave to introduce bills was granted; 17 resolutions were accepted wholly or with modification, 80 were not pressed, 2 were carried and 56 not taken up for want of time. Through these resolutions members sought to bring to the notice of the government defects in the administration.
- (iii) *Budget session* — 23rd to 28th July 1945 : The consideration of the budget occupied the House for the greater part of the session. One hundred and twenty cut motions were tabled of which 33 were discussed and 7 withdrawn; for want of time, the House agreed to give priority to certain motions and the remaining were guillotined. One cut motion was passed and the others not pressed to a division or withdrawn.

Besides the budget, the House ~~considered~~ 5 official and 7 non-official bills. Of the official bills 3 were passed, one withdrawn and one rejected. Five non-official bills were referred to select committees, one passed and one postponed.

There were 4 resolutions before the House and 71 questions.

Legislation

75. ACTS — The following acts were passed during the year :—

- (i) The Land Improvement Schemes Act (No. XIV of 1944): The Act is based on a similar act of the Bombay Government (No. XXVIII of 1942). It empowers government officers to enforce execution of schemes, formulated by the board appointed under the Act, for improvement of agriculture and water-supply, soil conservation, reclamation of marshy and salt lands, controlled grazing, tree planting etc.
- (ii) The Power Alcohol Act (No. VI of 1945) : It provides for the control of the production and distribution of power alcohol in the State. It is based on the legislation in force in Bombay, the United Provinces and Mysore.
- (iii) The Excise Act (No. VII of 1945) : It is a consolidating act relating to duties and excise on sugar, matches, tobacco etc., produced in the State. It follows the lines of the Government of India Central Excise and Salt Act, I of 1944.
- (iv) The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Act (No. XV of 1944) permits women to work as assessors and jurors.
- (v) The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Act (No. III of 1945) : By this amendment courts are permitted to take cognisance of bigamy, without a complaint from the aggrieved party if he is a soldier, and is represented by an authorised person. This meets the difficulty which soldiers experienced during the war to attend court in person. The Act is based on the Indian Amendment Act No. XVIII of 1943.
- (vi) The Companies (Amendment) Act (No. I of 1945) : The amendments effected in the Indian Companies Act by Amendment Acts No. XXVI of 1941 and Nos. XVII and XXI of 1942 are incorporated in the State company law.
- (vii) The Caste Tyranny Removal Amendment Act (No. X of 1945) : This amendment excludes from the operation of the Act, the decisions of the Wagher panchs appointed by and working under the supervision of the Okhamandal district magistrate, in disputes pertaining to betrothal, marriage, remarriage, and divorce among the Waghers of the district.

- (viii) The Prevention of Adulteration in Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act (No. XI of 1945) : The carrying of food for sale, directly or through a dealer, without a license is prohibited. The amendment is designed to bring within the scope of the law persons bringing adulterated milk from villages to the Baroda City.

76. AMENDMENTS TO THE DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT AND RULES — The Government of India amended the Defence of India Act and Rules from time to time. Corresponding amendments were made in the Baroda law.

77. WAR LEGISLATION — The following ordinances and orders relating to the War were promulgated :—

- (i) The Sugar (temporary excise duty) Ordinance, 1944.
- (ii) The Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944.
- (iii) The Cotton Textile Fund Ordinance, 1945.
- (iv) The Flour (use in soap making) (prohibition) Order, 1944.
- (v) The Motor Vehicles Spare Parts Control Order, 1944.
- (vi) The Paper Control (production) Order, 1944.
- (vii) The Newspaper Control Order, 1944.
- (viii) The Leather Movement (by rail) Control Order, 1944.
- (ix) Hides Movement (by rail) Control Order, 1944.
- (x) The Footwear Control Order, 1944.
- (xi) The Cloth and Yarn (export control) Order, 1944.
- (xii) The Consumers Goods (control of distribution) Order, 1944.
- (xiii) The Used Motor Vehicles Control Order, 1944.
- (xiv) The Brass Utensils (control) Order, 1944.
- (xv) The Camps and Parades (control) Order, 1944.
- (xvi) Orders regarding security control of passenger traffic between India and Ceylon.
- (xvii) The Retail Trade Control and Licensing Order, 1945.
- (xviii) The Rationing Preparatory Measures Order, 1945.
- (xix) The Rationing Inquiry Order, 1945.
- (xx) The Brass Utensils (control) Order, 1945.

- (xxi) The Paper Control (price of board) Order, 1945.
- (xxii) The Paper Prices Control Order, 1945.
- (xxiii) The Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1945.
- (xxiv) The Aluminium Utensils (control) Order, 1945.
- (xxv) The Footwear Control Order, 1945.
- (xxvi) The Rationing Regulations, 1945.

CHAPTER VII

JUSTICE

78. THE COURTS — Besides the Huzur Nyaya Sabha and the high court, there were five district judges' courts and the Okhamandal sessions court, 25 small causes courts, 25 subordinate judges' courts, 5 district magistrates' courts, 25 magistrates' courts and 18 revenue magistrates exercising 2nd and 3rd class magisterial powers.

There were also five revenue officers exercising civil powers, one village munsiff court and five persons exercising magisterial powers.

79. SUPERVISION — In February 1939, the government systematised their arrangements for regular supervision and inspection of courts and scrutiny of the judgments of munsiffs — magistrates. At first, an additional judge of the high court was entrusted with this work, but later it was distributed among all the judges of the high court. During the year, the judges scrutinised several contested cases disposed of by magistrates, some of which were taken in revision. This scrutiny has been of educative value, specially in the case of junior magistrates.

80. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE — The income of civil and criminal courts rose from Rs. 7·2 lakhs to Rs. 7·8 lakhs. The expenditure was Rs. 8·8 lakhs or Rs. 30,000 more than in the previous year. This increase was due to the improvement in the grades of clerical staff, sanctioned in November 1944.

81. HUZUR NYAYA SABHA — The following statement shows the work done by the Huzur Nyaya Sabha :—

Nature of work	File including arrears		Disposal		Pending at the end of the year	
	1944-45	1943-44	1944-45	1943-44	1944-45	1943-44
CIVIL						
Appeals	32	41	15	14
Extraordinary applications	...		142	134	89	53
Review applications	...	3	...	1	...	2
CRIMINAL						
Appeals	32	21	20	10
Extraordinary applications	...		106	64	87	44

Of the 105 civil cases disposed of, 69 were *prima facie* disallowed. In the 36 cases in which appeal was allowed, the Huzur accepted the recommendation of the Nyaya Sabha in all except one. The decisions of the high court were upheld in 98 cases and reversed in 7.

During the year 32 criminal cases were submitted to the Huzur, in all of which the recommendations of the Nyaya Sabha were accepted. In 92 cases the decisions of the high court were upheld, reversed in 3 and in 2 modified.

82. KHATANIHAYA SADAR ADALAT — The Khatanihaya Sadar Adalat is the highest departmental tribunal for the disposal of appeals and applications against decisions of heads of departments, ministers and the Council. Its decisions to allow appeals or applications are submitted to His Highness in form of recommendations for final orders. During the year, it disposed of 110 appeals, 48 revision applications and 1 review application. Of the 56 cases submitted to the Huzur, in 43 the recommendations of the Adalat was accepted, in 2 accepted with modification and in 11 rejected.

Civil justice

83. LITIGATION — The number of suits instituted and disposed of in 1943-44 and 1944-45 is given below :—

Year	File with arrears	Disposal	Pending cases	Pending for more than a year	
				Ordinary suits	Regular appeals
1944-45...	...	32,087	22,958	9,129	1,065 89
1943-44...	...	36,193	26,350	9,843	887 186

The total number of cases on file was about 4,000 less than in the previous year, but as fewer cases were disposed of than in 1943-44, the number of pending cases did not appreciably decrease, and the ordinary suits, pending for more than a year, have increased by 178. The total value of the suits was Rs. 40·25 lakhs as against Rs. 29·5 lakhs in 1943-44. The average value of a suit rose from Rs. 427 to Rs. 584.

84. EXECUTIONS — The number of applications for execution was 15,220, including 6,012 of the previous year, as against 19,926 in 1943-44. Of these 10,514 were disposed of as against 13,768. The amount realised in execution fell from Rs. 9·2 lakhs to Rs. 8·4 lakhs but the percentage of recovery to the total amount increased from 29 to 35 per cent.

85. DURATION — In district courts the duration of ordinary suits increased from 434 to 726 days or by 75 per cent, mostly because a large number of suits pending for a long time in Baroda and Mehsana courts were disposed of during the year.

In munsiff courts the duration of ordinary suits increased from 151 to 187 days or by 23.9 per cent but of small causes suits decreased from 74 to 70 days.

There was an appreciable improvement in the disposal of first appeals in the high court, the duration decreasing from 307 to 190 days; in district courts, however, there was no such improvement : the duration increased from 209 to 215 days, during the year.

At the end of the year, there were 2 appeals pending for more than a year in the high court, 89 as against 186 in the preceding year in district courts, and 969 as against 763 in the preceding year in munsiff and small causes courts.

86. THE HIGH COURT — The following table shows the civil work in the high court :—

Year	File with arrears	Disposal	Pending at the end of the year
FIRST APPEALS			
1944-45	111	61	50
1943-44	124	89	35
SECOND APPEALS			
1944-45	603	373	230
1943-44	599	349	250
MISCELLANEOUS APPEALS			
1944-45	50	36	14
1943-44	42	28	14

87. DISTRICT COURTS — The following table shows the civil work in district courts :—

Year	File with arrears	Disposal	Pending at the end of the year
REGULAR APPEALS			
1944-45	1,669	1,033	636
1943-44	1,807	1,109	698
MISCELLANEOUS APPEALS			
1944-45	220	181	39
1943-44	215	172	43
ORDINARY CIVIL SUITS			
1944-45	347	138	209
1943-44	306	88	218
MISCELLANEOUS CASES			
1944-45	652	433	219
1943-44	760	551	209
EXECUTION WORK			
1944-45	132	49	83
1943-44	146	36	110

88. MUNSIFF AND SMALL CAUSES COURTS — Civil work in munsiff and small causes courts is shown below :—

Year		File with arrears	Disposal	Pending at the end of the year
ORDINARY SUITS				
1944-45	...	11,250	6,574	4,676
1943-44	...	10,680	6,184	4,496
SMALL CAUSES SUITS				
1944-45	...	10,232	8,530	1,702
1943-44	...	13,738	11,216	2,522
MISCELLANEOUS CASES				
1944-45	...	5,637	4,491	1,146
1943-44	...	6,524	5,453	1,071
EXECUTION APPLICATIONS IN ORDINARY SUITS				
1944-45	...	9,373	5,826	3,547
1943-44	...	11,940	7,340	4,600
EXECUTION APPLICATIONS IN SMALL CAUSES SUITS				
1944-45	...	5,745	4,639	1,106
1943-44	...	7,840	6,392	1,448

89. VILLAGE MUNSIFFS — The village munsiff court at Limbodra, Kalol taluka, worked satisfactorily. It disposed of 4 cases. The average duration of suits was 26 days.

Criminal justice

90. CRIMINAL WORK — The total number of cases including arrears fell from 42,543 to 38,248, but as fewer cases were disposed of than in 1943-44, the arrears did not decrease appreciably : there were 4,030 cases pending as against 4,551 in the previous year.

91. HIGH COURT — The following table shows the criminal work in the high court :—

Year		File with arrears	Disposal	Pending at the end of the year
FIRST APPEALS				
1944-45	...	114	102	12
1943-44	...	118	78	40
SECOND APPEALS				
1944-45	...	86	85	1
1943-44	...	70	60	10
ACQUITTAL APPEALS				
1944-45	...	165	134	31
1943-44	...	129	96	33
REFERRED CASES				
1944-45	...	26	23	3
1943-44	...	29	25	4
REVISION CASES				
1944-45	...	254	227	27
1943-44	...	291	203	28

There were no miscellaneous appeals.

92. DISTRICT COURTS — The following table shows the criminal work in district courts :—

	Appeals	Miscellaneous appeals	Sessions cases	Miscellaneous applications
		45		
File with arrears ...	474	513	227	562
Disposal ...	407	454	175	541
Pending ...	67	59	52	21
				31

Fewer cases and appeals were disposed of than in the preceding year and there was a general increase in the number of pending cases.

93. MAGISTRATES' COURTS — The following statement shows the criminal work in magistrates' courts :—

Year	File with arrears	Disposal	Pending at the end of the year
ORIGINAL CRIMINAL CASES			
1944-45	29,760	26,371	3,389
1943-44	34,197	30,343	3,854
MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS			
1944-45	6,386	5,969	417
1943-44	6,280	5,824	456

There was a decrease of 2,917 in the number of original cases, but the disposal was not up to the mark of the preceding year and the cases pending at the end of the year did not decrease correspondingly.

94. DURATION — In the high court, the duration of first appeals was 137 days as against 149 in the previous year, of second appeals 32 days as against 26, and of acquittal appeals 87 days as against 56. In sessions courts the duration of sessions cases rose from 52 to 73 days and of criminal appeals from 52 to 55 days. In magistrates' courts, inspite of the marked decrease in the number of cases on file, the duration of cases was slightly higher than in the previous year: 44 as against 43 days.

Registration

95. DOCUMENTS REGISTERED — The number of documents registered during the year was 58,700 and their total value Rs. 588·0 lakhs as compared to 65,300 documents of the value of Rs. 565·6 lakhs in the previous year. The increase of Rs. 22·4 lakhs in the value, inspite of the decrease of 6,500 in the number of documents, indicates that

the value of property was still on the rise, during the year. The documents registered by co-operative societies and agricultural banks, which are exempted from registration fees, numbered 821 and remissions given amounted to Rs. 10,816.

The gross receipts from registration fees decreased from Rs. 3·41 lakhs to Rs. 3·23 lakhs. The expenditure of the department was Rs. 0·87 lakh and the net income fell from Rs. 2·68 lakhs to Rs. 2·36 lakhs.

96. RECORD OF RIGHTS — The Record of Rights Act has been in force in the Karjan taluka of the Baroda district since 1932. The sub-registrar, Karjan, sends to the revenue authorities monthly lists of registered documents for each village, who maintains a complete record of rights for all land in the taluka. During the year, 1936 lists were sent to the revenue authorities.

CHAPTER VIII

LAW AND ORDER

97. GENERAL — Law and order continued to prevail in the State and there were no serious breaches of the peace. Strikes in textile mills and on the railway called for precautionary measures but these were settled and no incidents occurred.

The influence of the general political awakening and the social and economic consequences of the war were increasingly felt, but the general tone of the local press continued to be loyal to the Baroda and the British Governments. The main topics of discussion in the local press were constitutional reforms leading to responsible government in the State, the need of holding new elections to the Dhara Sabha, and local problems relating to civil supplies administration and its working, the difficulties of the clerical and other low grade servants and corruption.

The police

98. STRENGTH AND DISTRIBUTION — The strength of the police force of the State was 1,066 officers and 4,148 men as in the previous year. In addition there were 122 officers and 338 men for the attached areas.

The total cost of the department was Rs. 18.45 lakhs as against Rs. 17.01 lakhs in the previous year. The expenditure on the district police amounted to Rs. 17.78 lakhs as against Rs. 15.27 lakhs. The average cost of a policeman came to Rs. 341, as against Rs. 295 in the preceding year.

The proportion of the number of police to the population varies with the different districts, from 1 to 785 inhabitants in the Mehsana district to 1 to 399 inhabitants in the Amreli district. It averages 1 to 632 for the State and 1 to 1,166 for the attached areas.

The proportion of the number of police to the area is 1 policeman to 0.021 square miles in Baroda City, 1.09 square miles in the Baroda district, 2.86 square miles in the Navsari district, 2.04 square miles in the Mehsana district, 2.16 square miles in the Amreli district and 11.45 square miles in the attached areas.

99. EDUCATION AND TRAINING — The headquarter school and the four district schools continued to work efficiently. New recruits are given six months course in drill and elementary police duties. Officers are trained in the headquarter school. Their course extends over eighteen months, and includes the study of the various codes, acts and rules, scientific investigation of crime and riding.

The gradual elimination of illiterates could not be continued on account of the difficulty of recruiting literate men, with the result that the percentage of literates in the force fell from 85.22 per cent, in the preceding year, to 79.3 per cent. The health of the force was on the whole good.

100. DISCIPLINE AND REWARDS — There was a slight improvement in discipline : the percentage of subordinate officers and men punished decreased from 21.24 to 20 per cent in the year under report. This high percentage of punishment is due partly to a more severe enforcement of discipline and partly to the inferior quality of the new recruits. The number of men dismissed from the force was 21. Money rewards were granted to 242 members of the force, as against 212 in the preceding year. The number of private persons, including village servants, rewarded increased from 61 to 63.

Crime

101. CRIME — Due to the favourable seasonal conditions as well as to the vigilance of the police, there was again a marked decrease in crime. The total number of cognisable offences decreased from 3,770 in the previous year and 4,092 in 1942-43, to 3,471 in the year under report. The improvement was common to all districts, except the Amreli district, where the record of cognisable offences – 396 – was higher than in any of the previous five years.

The percentage of detection to the total cognisable crime was 83.30 as against 83.87 in the previous year. The number of persons arrested was 7,168 as against 7,359.

The total number of cases sent to the courts for disposal was 3,511, as against 3,483 in the preceding year. Of these, 437 were compounded or withdrawn, 1,419 ended in conviction, 785 in acquittal and 870 were pending with the magistrates. The percentage of cases convicted to cases tried was 64.4 as against 64.0, in the preceding year.

102. INCREASE OR DECREASE IN CRIME — The following tables show the increase or decrease of three main classes of cognisable offences in each district :—

District		1944-45	1943-44	Difference
OFFENCES AGAINST PERSON				
Baroda City	...	59	88	-29
Baroda	...	177	212	-35
Mehsana	...	310	370	-60
Navsari	...	59	88	-29
Amreli	...	60	62	-2
Total	...	665	820	-155

The percentage of these to the total number of offences was 19.1 as against 21.7 in the preceding year.

OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY				
Baroda City	...	286	406	-120
Baroda	...	355	542	-187
Mehsana	...	671	751	-80
Navsari	...	135	180	-45
Amreli	...	172	138	+ 34
Total	...	1,619	2,017	-398

The percentage of these to the total number of offences was 46.6 as against 53.5 in the preceding year.

MISCELLANEOUS				
Baroda City	...	207	79	+128
Baroda	...	289	198	+ 91
Mehsana	...	466	416	+ 50
Navsari	...	61	118	- 57
Amreli	...	164	122	+ 42
Total	...	1,187	933	+254

The percentage of these to the total number of offences was 34.2 as against 24.7 in the preceding year. This increase is due to the offences committed under the Defence of India Act as applied to Baroda State and the rules issued under it.

103. GRAVE CRIMES—The number of grave crimes reported decreased appreciably—from 1,702 to 1,357. There was a decrease in the number of murders by 21, in dacoities by 8, in burglaries by 151 and in thefts by 184.

The following statement shows the result of cases of grave crimes dealt with by the courts :—

Kind of offences	Cases reported	Cases tried	Convictions	Percentage of convictions	
				1944-45	1943-44
Murder and culpable homicide.	90	65	40	61.5	61.2
Dacoity	...	46	12	63.2	54.5
Robbery	...	48	10	58.8	63.3
Burglary	...	552	164	65.9	66.1
Thefts	...	621	268	58.1	58.2

104. PROPERTY STOLEN — The number of cases of stolen property reported to the police was 1,505 as against 1,464 in the previous year. The percentage of cases, in which property was recovered to cases reported, was 43.12 as against 46.38 in the previous year. Cattle lifting and depredations by cattle continued to cause anxiety. These crimes are due to economic causes and the abnormal price of cattle. Special measures have been taken by the police. The Criminal Tribes Act has been applied in some areas and the number of cattle have been noted. Further measures are under consideration.

105. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT — The criminal investigation department investigated a number of important cases of organised cheating, fraud, theft, murder and conspiracy. It assisted in the work connected with the Defence of India Act, the Registration of Foreigners Act and similar measures.

106. FINGER-PRINT BUREAU — The finger-print bureau had 25,215 slips on record. The number of slips sent for inquiry was 1,984 of which 1,896 related to cases in the State, and 152 were traced. Expert finger print evidence was given in nine cases.

107. CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT — The policy of exempting villages from the operation of the Act, on condition that the panchayats accept responsibility for seeing that no crime is committed by the village or that crimes, if committed, are reported, has met with marked success. In 1939 when this policy was first adopted, there were 12 villages to which the Act applied, all in the Mehsana district. During the year under report there was only four, all others having been exempted.

Side by side with this, measures like the opening of rural reconstruction centres, sinking wells to extend cultivation, opening schools, and the like, have been undertaken in these areas to ensure permanent effects. In Chhavalia village alone, where there were only four wells in 1938, 40 new wells have been sunk. Tagavi has also been liberally given for the extension of cultivation. These measures have been so far successful that the number of crimes in the Mehsana district has decreased during the last ten years by almost 50 per cent from 2,636 to 1,447.

Extradition

108. EXTRADITION DEMANDS — The Baroda Government made extradition demands in 126 cases, as against 174 in the previous year, and received demands from the British districts and Indian States in 142 cases, as against 137 in the preceding year. During the year, 125 persons involved in 72 cases were surrendered to Baroda, while the State surrendered 65 persons in 45 cases to British India, and 91 persons in 41 cases to Indian States.

Of 266 persons charged during the year, 59 persons in 53 cases were discharged, 109 persons in 57 cases acquitted, 60 persons in 37 cases convicted, and 2 persons in 1 case dealt with otherwise. At the end of the year 36 persons in 25 cases were awaiting trial.

Prisons

109. NUMBER OF PRISONERS—The following table shows the number of prisoners, males and females, during the year:—

Year	No. of pri- soners at the commence- ment of the year		New admissions		Total		Number discharged	Number at the end of the year			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.		
1944-45	...	1,225	22	4,956	112	5,821	133	4,573	103	1,248	30
1943-44	...	1,539	32	5,146	135	6,685	167	5,460	145	1,225	22

There was a decrease of 213 in the number of admissions in the year.

Of the total 5,068 prisoners admitted, 1,848 were convicts, 3,150 undertrials, 46 civil prisoners and 24 lunatics. The daily average number of prisoners in jails and lock-ups was 1,404 as against 1,581 in the previous year.

110. SHORT TERM SENTENCES—The attention of magistrates has been drawn in previous years to the undesirability of punishing trivial offences by imprisonment for short terms. But a third of the sentences still continue to be of less than 3 months. Of the 1,209 convicted during the year 16·9 per cent were sentenced to terms not exceeding one month and 15·9 per cent to terms exceeding one month but less than three months.

111. HABITUALS—Out of 1,209 convicts admitted during the year, 28 or 2·3 per cent were habituals. Their conduct was satisfactory and no corporal punishment had to be inflicted.

112. HEALTH, EDUCATION AND DISCIPLINE—There was a marked improvement in the health of prisoners. The average number of sick prisoners decreased from 28 to 11·76 per day and the death ratio decreased from 15·8 to 2·8 per thousand. Of the prisoners released during the year, 56·6 per cent had gained weight.

There were 96 prisoners in the central jail school of whom 44 were admitted during the year. Of these 44 were taught to read and write. Prisoners are taught occupations which will be useful to them after release. In the jail factory 248 were taught cane work, tailoring, carpet weaving, dyeing, hand and power-loom weaving and

laundry work. Many others were employed, 75 as warders, 311 as menials and 229 on other remunerative work.

There was improvement in discipline also — the number of offences against jail rules was only 33 as against 63 in the preceding year. The ratio of punishment decreased from 4 to 2·3 to every hundred of average strength.

Four prisoners from the central jail and 7 from district lockups escaped during the year. Six of these have not been traced.

113. CONDITIONAL RELEASE OF PRISONERS — The system of releasing prisoners on probation continued and 32 prisoners were released during the year.

114. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE — The total expenditure during the year, excluding police guards and military, amounted to Rs. 3·14 lakhs as against Rs. 2·93 lakhs in the preceding year. The increase in expenditure was mainly due to the general rise in prices.

The total net income from jails and lockups, during the year, amounted to Rs. 0·56 lakh as against Rs. 0·58 lakh in the preceding year.

The net cost to government for jails and lockups was thus Rs. 2·58 lakhs as against Rs. 2·35 lakhs in the preceding year. The average cost per prisoner was Rs. 183·8 as against Rs. 148·5 in the preceding year.

CHAPTER IX

THE ARMY

115. STRENGTH AND MAINTENANCE COST OF THE REGULAR FORCE — The fixed strength of the State regular forces is 3,925, its actual strength and the cost of maintenance is shown below:—

Description of the force	Actual strength*	Cost	
		1944-45	1943-44 Rs. in lakhs
Cavalry	735	8·63 8·61
Infantry†	3,105	16·54 11·93
Band	61	0·39 0·39
Chief of the military staff and staff officers.		5	0·96 0·85
Medical	0·32 0·26
Veterinary	0·17 0·12
Total	3,906	27·01 22·16

* Non-effective have not been included in these figures.

† The artillery has been amalgamated with the Baroda detachment as an ordnance platoon.

The annual average cost of each effective in the cavalry was Rs. 1,175, in the infantry Rs. 533 and in the band Rs. 639. The average cost of an effective in the force taken together was Rs. 617 or about Rs. 57·7 per month.

116. STRENGTH OF THE IRREGULAR FORCE — The following table shows the total fixed strength of the irregular force :—

<i>Horse</i>					<i>Foot</i>		
Shilledars	Shibandi	Paganihaya	Khalsa	Total	Shibandi	Khalsa	Total
908	383	182	577	2,050	1,139	667	1,806

The expenditure on the irregular force was Rs. 0·68 lakh as against Rs. 0·63 lakh in the preceding year.

117. DISCIPLINE AND EFFICIENCY — The discipline and efficiency of the troops were maintained and their practical training improved.

118. REORGANISATION — The 2nd Baroda infantry was reorganised on war establishment scale of the Indian army; the Training Double Company was reorganised as infantry training centre on peace establishment scale of the Indian State forces.

119. DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE SCHOOL — It trained 1,000 men from the Indian army and 48 from the State forces.

120. EXPENDITURE — An annual grant of Rs. 20 lakhs for maintenance and of Rs. 2·5 lakhs for pensions and gratuities has been sanctioned. During the war, however, an additional sum of Rs. 10 lakhs for the year was allotted to meet the increased maintenance expenses.

The expenditure for the year was Rs. 27·7 lakhs as against Rs. 22·8 lakhs for maintenance, and Rs. 1·96 lakhs as against Rs. 1·98 lakhs on pensions and gratuities.

121. WAR SERVICE — The Baroda 2nd Infantry was on active service on the Eastern front and its exploits have won universal appreciation.

His Majesty the King Emperor was graciously pleased to approve that the following be mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Burmah and on the eastern frontiers of India.

Maj. (ag.)	D. R. Jadhav. (mentioned twice)
Jamadar	Jan Mohammad.
B. Q. M. Hav.	D. K. Shelar.
Naik	P. K. Sakpal.
Subadar	Keshavrao Nathajirao Dhumal.
Havildar	Kashiram Dhondu Ahire.

Lieut. General Sir Oliver Leese, Bt. KCB., CBE. DSO. has also expressed his appreciation of the role of the 2nd Baroda Battalion on the Eastern front.

"During 1943 and 1944 it was engaged in the defence of the air fields at Chittagong, a useful and essential role.

"In December that year and for the next three months the battalion formed part of 268 Indian Infantry Brigade and took part in the great advance across the river Chindwin.

"Since that time it has been the Divisional Headquarters Battalion of the 7th Indian Division. I know that the Divisional Commander, General Evans greatly appreciates the good work it has done and has complete confidence in its quality.

"I think this brief history of your Battalion will be of some interest to you and I would like you to know how greatly we appreciate the honour of having your troops with us in this Army Group."

CHAPTER X

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

122. ESTIMATES — The budget for the year estimated the revenue at Rs. 395·00 lakhs, the expenditure at Rs. 394·26 lakhs and anticipated a surplus of Rs. 0·74 lakh. The year, however, proved better than anticipated. The receipts were Rs. 434·26 lakhs or Rs. 39·26 lakhs more than anticipated. The expenditure was Rs. 373·78 lakhs, Rs. 20·48 lakhs less than the estimates. The year closed with a surplus of Rs. 60·48 lakhs.

123. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE — The ordinary revenue of the year was Rs. 52·73 lakhs more than that of the preceding year. The details and the reasons for the variation are given below. In regard to commercial departments — railways, electric, ports and the press — only the net revenue has been shown :—

RECEIPTS (actuals)

(Figures in lakhs of rupees)

S. no.	Head	1944-45	1943-44	Increase or decrease
1	Land revenue	102·64	103·17	— 0·53
2	Taxes	103·42	57·36	+ 46·06
3	Forests	13·52	16·33	— 2·81
4	Excise	74·27	55·92	+ 18·35
5	Opium	5·86	4·46	+ 1·40
6	Customs	20·23	39·08	— 18·80
7	Salt	5·70	5·70	...
8	Stamps	18·36	17·98	+ 0·38
9	Registration	3·23	3·40	— 0·17
10	Receipts under Motor Vehicles Act.	0·79	0·94	— 0·15
11	Tribute	2·23	3·90	— 1·62

S. no.	Head	1944-45	1943-44	Increase or decrease
12	'B' Class municipalities	... 0·27	0·20	+ 0·07
13	Village panchayats	... 2·44	3·32	- 0·88
14	Interest	... 29·47	24·52	+ 4·95
15	Railways	... 23·20	23·22	- 0·02
16	Electric	... 1·74	1·71	+ 0·03
17	Irrigation	... 0·02	0·10	- 0·08
18	Port	... 0·75	1·13	- 0·38
19	Press	... 0·28	0·02	+ 0·26
20	Dairy	... 0·16	0·13	+ 0·03
21	Central administration	... 0·94	0·27	+ 0·67
22	Judicial	... 1·77	1·54	+ 0·23
23	Police	... 0·57	0·42	+ 0·15
24	Jail	... 0·49	0·58	- 0·09
25	Army	... 0·09	0·08	+ 0·01
26	Sanitation	... 0·50	0·49	+ 0·01
27	Medical	... 2·56	1·47	+ 1·09
28	Education	... 6·13	5·66	+ 0·47
29	Agriculture	... 2·24	1·83	+ 0·41
30	Commerce, industries, co-operation and statistics.	1·15	1·52	- 0·37
31	Public works	... 3·41	2·24	+ 1·17
32	Miscellaneous	... 2·22	2·77	- 0·55
33	Profits received in conversion of securities.	4·07	0·11	+ 3·96
	Total	434·26	381·53	+52·73

The reasons for the more important variations in receipts as compared with the preceding year, are given below :—

Head	Variation in lakhs of Rs.	Reasons
Taxes.	+46·06	Both super-tax and income-tax yielded more.
Forest.	- 2·81	Lower receipts from timber.
Excise.	+18·35	Larger receipts under duty on liquor and licence fees.

Head	Variation in lakhs of Rs.	Reasons
Opium.	+ 1·40	Increased sales of opium.
Customs	-18·80	The duty on petrol consumed by the military for war purposes was refunded.
Tribute.	- 1·62	Less arrears were recovered.
Village panchayats.	- 0·88	Income from grass, fire wood etc. decreased.
Interest.	+ 0·95	Increased investments.
Central administration	+ 0·67	Higher prices were realised for the unserviceable articles, waste papers etc. sold.
Medical.	+ 1·09	More public contributions were received.
Public works.	+ 1·17	Higher prices were realised for the unserviceable materials sold.
Profit received in conversion of securities.	+ 3·96	Profits from the sale of gold.

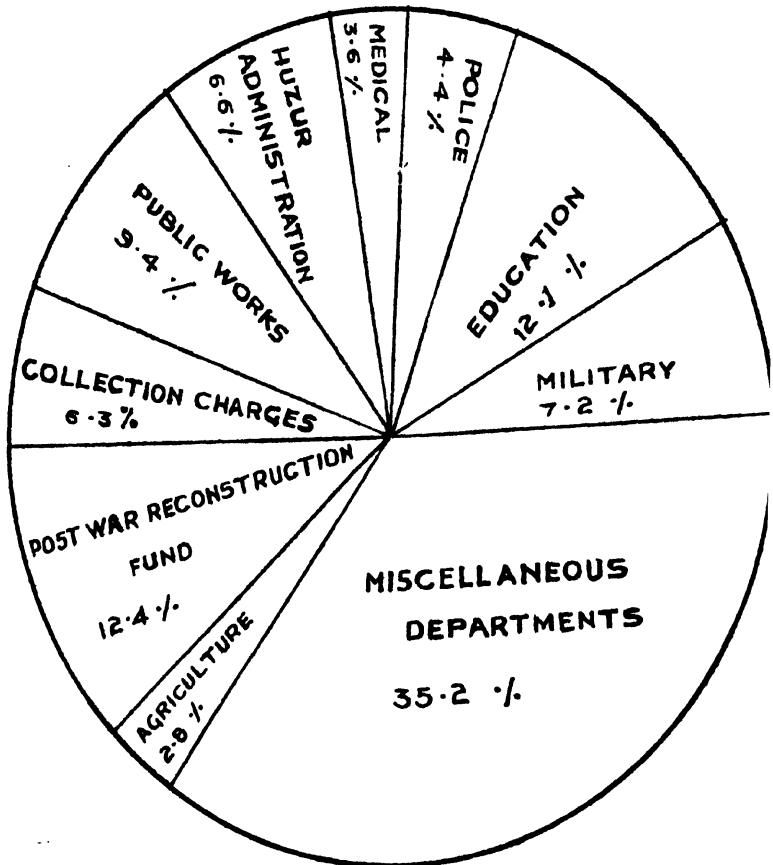
The ordinary expenditure was Rs. 40·08 lakhs more than that of the previous year. The details and the reasons for the variation are given below :—

EXPENDITURE (actuals)

(Figures in lakhs of rupees)

S. no.	Head	1944-45	1943-44	Increase or decrease
1	Land revenue administration ...	21·71	21·24	+ 0·47
2	Contribution to land revenue equalisation fund.	7·57	8·10	- 0·53
3	Taxes	1·06	0·94	+ 0·12
4	Forests	1·41	1·32	+ 0·09
5	Excise	2·15	2·00	+ 0·15
6	Opium	0·46	0·70	- 0·24
7	Customs	0·26	0·28	- 0·02
8	Salt	...	...	...
9	Stamps	0·62	0·47	+ 0·15
10	Registration	0·72	0·71	+ 0·01
11	"B" class municipalities	0·27	0·26	+ 0·01

DIAGRAM SHOWING THE PROPORTION
OF
EXPENDITURE ON VARIOUS HEADS.



S. no.	Head	1944-45	1943-44	Increase or decrease
12	Village panchayats	3.27	2.22	+ 1.05
13	Interest	10.58	8.00	+ 2.58
14	Irrigation	0.08	0.07	+ 0.01
15	Dairy	1.01	0.55	+ 0.46
16	Civil List	23.00	23.00	...
17	Central administration	26.67	16.72	+ 9.95
18	Judicial	5.93	5.56	+ 0.37
19	Police	15.78	15.64	+ 0.14
20	Payment in lieu of contingent	...	2.75	- 2.75
21	Jail	1.82	1.86	- 0.04
22	Army	27.50	23.50	+ 5.00
23	Sanitation	1.37	1.10	+ 0.27
24	Medical	12.16	11.05	+ 1.11
25	Education	42.30	39.41	+ 2.89
26	Agriculture	10.17	8.39	+ 1.78
27	Commerce and industries	1.67	1.81	- 0.14
28	Statistics	0.21	0.20	+ 0.01
29	Fisheries	0.17	0.20	- 0.03
30	Co-operation	0.77	0.67	+ 0.10
31	Public works	32.90	21.25	+11.65
32	Miscellaneous	67.12	75.71	- 8.59
	Post war re-construc- tion.	44.00*		
	Military	10.00		
	Donations	6.41		
	Miscellaneous	6.71		
		67.12		
33	Ecclesiastical	1.98	1.95	+ 0.03
34	Nemnook assami	9.80	9.88	- .08
35	Pensions	9.86	9.82	+ .04
36	Subsidy to local boards	2.32	5.02	- 2.70
37	Relief	29.11	12.35	+16.76
	Total	373.78	333.70	+40.08

*This is credited to the post war reconstruction fund and will be used for post war schemes.

The reasons for the more important variations in expenditure as compared with those of preceding year are shown below :—

Head	Variation in lakhs of Rs.	Reasons
Land revenue equalisation fund.	—0.53	Only the excess of actual collection over Rs. 95.07 lakhs is credited to this fund.
Village panchayats.	+1.05	Larger receipts from grass, wood etc. which are handed back to the panchayats.
Interest.	+2.58	Increased deposits in government savings banks.
Central administration.	+9.95	Improvement in grades of clerks and bhatta scale.
Payment in lieu of contingent.	—2.75	Adjustment was not made during the year.
Army.	+5.00	An additional grant was sanctioned for buildings.
Medical.	+1.11	Higher prices of medicines and instruments.
Education.	+2.89	Increase in expenditure on pay of primary teachers, larger grants-in-aid to secondary schools and expansion of the commerce college staff.
Agriculture.	+1.78	Expansion of temporary staff etc.
Public works.	+11.65	New works were taken up.
Miscellaneous.	—8.59	There was no donation for the compassionate fund for the State servants such as was in the preceding year.
Subsidy to local boards.	—2.70	Demand for grants for water works decreased.
Famine relief.	+16.76	Increase in the rates of dearness allowance and rebate on grain supplied to government servants.

124. TRIBUTE — The following table shows the demand, collections and arrears of tribute:—

(*Figures in lakhs of rupees*)

Name of Agency	Arrears	Demand for the year	Total demand	Collection	Arrears
Gujarat	. 0'91	0'76	1'67	1'21	0'46
Western India States .	4'29	3'80	8'09	0'57	7'52
Rajputana	. 0'43	0'41	0'84	0'38	0'46
Miyagam	. ...	0'11	0'11	0'11	...
Total	. 5'63	5'08	10'71	2'27	8'44

125. LAND REVENUE EQUALISATION FUND — Land revenue forms one of the main sources of income of the State, but is liable to fluctuate with seasonal vicissitudes and cause serious dislocation of the State finances. To offset such possible repercussions a land revenue equalisation fund was created in 1939-40 by transfer of Rs. 50 lakhs from balances of the State. The excess of actual land revenue collected over Rs. 95.07 lakhs is credited to the fund. Accordingly, in the year under report Rs. 7.57 lakhs were credited. The fund now stands at Rs. 90.18 lakhs.

126. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES — The assets and liabilities of the State at the end of the year as compared with the previous year were as follows:—

(*Figures in lakhs of rupees*)

Particulars	1944-45		1943-44	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cash Balances:—			488'58	399'82
	1944-45	1943-44		
In current accounts with banks.	Rs. 69'99	Rs. 88'96		
In treasuries	22'75	25.02		
Fixed deposits	395'84	285'84		
	488'58	399'82		
Loans and advances:—			257'89	148'53
Capital account:—				
Investments in remunerative capital works			734'54	719'33
Securities			841'68	716'42
Total assets			2,322'69	1,984'10
Less liabilities			1,019'67	741'55
Net assets			1,303'02	1,242'55
Net increase			60'47	

The net assets of the State at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 1,303 lakhs. Of these Rs. 583 lakhs represents capital invested in railways, Rs. 46 lakhs in electric works and Rs. 51 lakhs in Okha and other ports.

The liquid assets now amount to Rs. 841 lakhs; of these Rs. 350 lakhs are set apart for the reserve fund and Rs. 90 lakhs for land revenue equalisation fund. Interest earned on the reserve fund is utilised for providing capital expenditure.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE

127. SEASON — The monsoon set in early and continued strong without a break causing floods and hindering agricultural operations. In the northern districts, it ended early but Baroda and Navsari had several heavy showers late in the season. Everywhere the rainfall was considerably above normal. In Baroda it was 52 inches, and in Navsari 81·5, which is 15 and 30 inches above normal. Mehsana had 38 and Amreli 32 inches — 16 and 13 inches above normal. Okhamandal had 41 inches — more than three times the average and heavier than ever known to have occurred there.

This excessive rain and the winter frosts were harmful to crops. The kharif crops were poor; of the rabi crops, wheat was affected by rust but pulses were fairly satisfactory and juwar in the southern districts was good. Open field paddy was unsatisfactory but kyari paddy did well.

The effect of the heavy monsoon on crops is seen in the following table which shows the estimated yield of staple crops in annas:—

District	Rice		Bajri		Juwar		Cotton	
	1944-45	1943-44	1944-45	1943-44	1944-45	1943-44	1944-45	1943-44
Baroda	...	7	10	7	9	9	10	9
Mehsana	...	8	8	8	9	5	6	7
Navsari	...	10	10	6	8	10	9	7
Amreli	...	11	11	11	10	9	8	9
Okhamandal...	2	10	2	10	...	...

Agricultural Statistics

128. CROPS AND THEIR VALUE — Of the crops grown 33 per cent. are commercial and 66 food crops. Cotton is the principal commercial crop and the area under cotton cultivation is 12 per cent. of the area cultivated. Tobacco and castors form about 1·5 per cent. each. Of the food crops, bajri and juwar each cover about 20 per cent. paddy 13 per cent. wheat, tuwar, kodra and pulses about 2 per cent. and fruit and vegetable together cover 2 per cent.

The following statement gives the extent and the value of the more important food and commercial crops:—

(*000 omitted*)

	Commercial crops		Food crops				
	Area bighas	Estimated value Rs.	Area bighas	Estimated value Rs.			
Cotton	...	7.47	134.9	Bajri	...	14.40	87.5
Tobacco	...	0.66	113.5	Juwari	...	12.90	269.9
Grass	...	6.58	121.9	Paddy	...	8.60	186.9
Castors	...	1.34	30.6	Wheat	...	2.00	97.3
Sugarcane	...	0.09	43.1	Tuar	...	1.20	27.2
Other crops	...	5.7	256.6	Other crops	...	5.1	490.4
Total...	21.84	700.6	Total...	44.2	1159.2		

The average value of produce per khatedar from food crops was Rs. 308 and from commercial crops Rs. 187. In spite of the poor cotton crop the average value of produce per khatedar was Rs. 500 as against Rs. 196 in 1939-40, which indicates the extent to which the war has affected the peasant.

129. OCCUPIED AREA — The total occupied area during the year was 67,81,879 bighas and exceeded that of the previous year by 2,899 bighas, of which 2,765 bighas was in the Mehsana district. A steady attempt is made to bring unoccupied arable lands under cultivation and numerous facilities and concessions are offered to cultivators under the grow more food campaign. These efforts, high prices and good seasons have given an impetus to the expansion of cultivation, so that while there was a decrease of 700 bighas in the occupied area during the quinquennium ending in 1940, the cultivation increased by 95,000 bighas in the years since then.

About five per cent. of the cultivable area is unoccupied, half of which is in the Mehsana district. There are 35,000 bighas in the Vijapur taluka, 23,000 in Patan and 21,000 in Chanasma and 75,000 in Okhamandal district. In Vijapur, the lands lying along the Sabarmati have suffered from soil erosion; that of Patan and Chanasma talukas are alkaline. Okhamandal suffers from acute scarcity of rain, and 30 per cent. of its cultivable area lies uncultivated. The following statement shows the distribution of cultivable, occupied and unoccupied lands in the different districts.

(*000 omitted*)

District	Cultivable area in bighas	Occupied area in bighas	Unoccupied area in bighas
Mehsana	...	30.05	28.32
Baroda	...	17.67	17.51
Navsari	...	11.53	11.41
Amreli	...	9.65	8.93
Okhamandal	...	2.39	1.65
Total	...	71.29	67.82
			3.47

130. TRANSFER OF LAND — There was a noticeable decrease in the transfer of land from cultivators during the year under report as compared to the previous year as the following table shows:—

Transferred on account of	1944-45		1943-44	
	Persons	Area in bighas	Persons	Area in bighas
Inheritance	... 10,197	1,50,486	11,156	1,58,372
Partition	... 240	3,793	362	3,159
Gifts or exchange	... 318	2,706	384	3,689
Sale...	... 15,547	1,17,135	18,079	1,40,660
Other causes	... 1,485	12,559	1,566	11,615
Total	... 27,787	2,86,679	31,547	3,17,495

The tendency for land to pass back from non-agriculturists to agriculturists, which set in in 1942-43, as a result of high prices of land and improvement in agricultural prices, was well maintained during the year. In the three years preceding 1942, the balance of transfers of land in favour of non-agriculturists was 12,500 bighas per year on an average. During the three years since 1942 the balance has turned in favour of agriculturists to the extent of 2,500 bighas per year. The following table gives detailed information of these transfers :—

Nature of transfer	1944-45		1943-44	
	Persons	Area in bighas	Persons	Area in bighas
From agriculturists to agriculturists.	11,134	86,911	12,148	88,023
From agriculturists to non-agriculturists.	1,942	14,531	2,496	22,501
From non-agriculturists to agriculturists.	2,546	17,495	3,334	24,091
From non-agriculturists to non-agriculturists.	1,894	19,556	2,107	22,536
Total	... 17,516	1,38,493	20,085	1,57,151

131. SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT — The period of the existing settlements of the Harij, Dehgam, Attarsumba, and Kheralu talukas was extended by two years from 1st August 1946. The expenditure of the department for the year under report was Rs. 0.89 lakh against Rs. 0.81 lakh in the previous year.

132. ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES — The area of land acquired during the year was 1,126 bighas of agricultural land and 52378 sq. feet of village site. The compensation awarded amounted to Rs. 6.17 lakhs as against Rs. 2.32 lakhs in the previous year for 1212 bighas of agricultural land and 279,964 sq. ft. of village site.

Out of the 1,111 awards made only in 23 cases the claimants resorted to civil courts.

133. BARKHALI — The barkhali department deals with the disposal of claims relating to inami and ankadia villages, cash allowances, vatans and barkhali land.

134. GIRAS — The giras adhikari disposed of 45 succession cases and 24 miscellaneous claims. There were 10 appeals to the giras adhikari all of which were disposed of.

Collection of revenues

135. LAND REVENUE — The realisation of land revenue was satisfactory, as the crops were everywhere good. The total demand was Rs. 98.23 lakhs as compared to Rs. 97.81 lakhs in the previous year, the increase being due to new lands having been brought under cultivation. The realisation was Rs. 95.56 lakhs or 97.3 per cent of the demand as against Rs. 95.39 lakhs or 97.6 per cent. In the Baroda, Navsari and Mehsana districts the realisations were over 97 per cent, in the Amreli district it was 95.7 per cent and in Okhamandal it was 60 per cent as against 68 per cent in the preceding year.

Fuller details are given below:—

(in lakhs of rupees)

District	1944-45		1943-44	
	Demand	Realisation	Demand	Realisation
Baroda	... 39.92	39.08	38.62	37.95
Mehsana	... 31.96	30.88	31.76	30.99
Navsari	... 16.89	16.77	16.70	16.56
Amreli	... 8.82	8.44	10.08	9.45
Okhamandal	... 0.64	0.39	0.65	0.44
Total	98.23	95.56	97.81	95.39

136. LOCAL CESS — The demand and realisation of local cess during the year are shown below :—

(in lakhs of rupees)

District	Demand	1944-45		1943-44		
		Realisa-tion	Percen-tage	Demand	Realisa-tion	Percen-tage
Baroda	... 2.95	2.87	97.4	2.89	2.84	98.0
Mehsana	... 2.51	2.44	98.7	2.43	2.37	97.4
Navsari	... 1.89	1.88	99.9	2.53	2.53	99.8
Amreli	... 0.71	0.70	97.3	0.69	0.68	98.0
Okhamandal	... 0.04	0.04	97.4	0.04	0.03	79.9
Total	... 8.10	7.93	97.8	8.60	8.45	98.3

137. MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE — Miscellaneous revenues amounting to Rs. 5.72 lakhs were realised leaving no arrears. In the preceding year the demand and realisation had been Rs. 5.07 lakhs and Rs. 4.90 lakhs respectively.

138. ARREARS — Arrears of previous years to the extent of Rs. 8.6 lakhs were recovered or written off, so that the balance of arrears fell from 21.17 to 12.55 lakhs. The following statement shows the details :—

(in lakhs of rupees)

District	Total arrears at the beginning of 1944-45	Recovered or written off during 1944-45		Balance at the end of 1944-45
		Recovered or written off during 1944-45	Balance at the end of 1944-45	
Baroda	4.55	3.12	1.43	
Mehsana	13.75	4.32	9.47	
Navsari	0.70	0.60	0.10	
Amreli	0.74	0.35	0.39	
Okhamandal	1.43	0.27	1.16	
Total	21.17	8.66	12.55	

139. COERCIVE MEASURES — The following statement shows the number of coercive measures of each kind taken during the year :—

	Nature of the measures	1944-45	1943-44
Notices	...	728	957
Attachments	...	1,676	1,578
Sales	...	87	311
Warrants of arrest	...	160	147
Fines	...	101	95
Total		2,752	3,088

There is no better indication of the prosperity of the agriculturist than the decrease in coercive measures for the realisation of revenues. The average number of coercive measures in the triennial ending in 1940-41 was 10,500 whereas the total of the triennial ending in 1944-45 was less than that, and the average per year only 3,390.

140. REMISSIONS AND SUSPENSIONS — The heavy rains in Okhmandal caused much damage by floods and destroyed the kharif crop necessitating generous relief. Full remission of land revenue amounting to Rs. 29,482 was given to khatedars, and suspension of land revenue to the extent of Rs. 35,674 and of tagavi, loans and interest and local cess amounting to Rs. 3.18 lakhs was granted.

Besides this, recovery of fines under the Compulsory Education Act and execution of decrees against khedut-khatedar by civil and revenue courts and co-operative societies was suspended till 31st December 1945.

Income tax

141. INCOME TAX — In 1939 the revised Income tax Act came into operation. The taxable minimum was raised from Rs. 750 to Rs. 2,000 per year and a graduated scale of taxation was introduced.

The total assessment increased by Rs. 29.6 lakhs from Rs. 44.57 lakhs in the preceding year to Rs. 74.17 lakhs. Of this Rs. 69.62 lakhs were realised leaving Rs. 4.55 lakhs as arrears.

The assessment of super-tax at a flat rate of 1 an. in the rupee of incomes exceeding Rs. 1 lakh amounted to Rs. 31.38 lakhs as against Rs. 15.41 lakhs in the preceding year. Of this Rs. 30.78 lakhs were realised. Thus the total assessment was Rs. 105.56 lakhs and the realisation Rs. 100.4 lakhs. Besides this, Rs. 4.43 lakhs of the arrears of the preceding year were realised. The total arrears at the end of the year were Rs. 5.6 lakhs.

The total number of assessees was 12,492 and the total income assessed Rs. 1,590 lakhs.

142. EXCESS PROFITS DEPOSITS — The Excess Profits Ordinance, introduced as an anti inflation measure, came into force from the 1st August 1943. It provides for deduction of 66½ per cent of profits in excess of the profits of the standard year. The deduction will be retained by the government for a period of 2 years from the date of payment or till one year after the end of the war which ever is later. On the expiry of the period it is to be fully refunded but its expenditure is to be controlled to the extent that it will be earmarked for the rationalisation of industry and development of trade and commerce.

The number of cases assessed during the year for excess profits deposit was 215, as against 167 in the preceding year, the amount assessed was Rs. 326.50 lakhs as against Rs. 169.90 lakhs and the amount recovered was Rs. 311.77 lakhs.

Excise

143. EXCISE ADMINISTRATION — In the Baroda, Mehsana and Navsari districts, contracts are given for five years for distilling country liquor, and the right of sale is leased to individual shops each year. In the Amreli district including Okhamandal, on the other hand, the monopoly of manufacture and retail sale for the whole district is farmed out.

The selling price ordinarily is not fixed though shop-keepers are not allowed to sell the liquor below the minimum made up of duty and cost price.

The country liquor shops in the Baroda, Mehsana and Navsari districts were auctioned, as usual for one year, from 1st April 1945. Thirty three shops in the Baroda district on the Mewasi border, 10 on the Panchmahal borders and 13 shops on the Bansda border in the Navsari district were leased without auction on the commission basis with fixed selling price. In fourteen kasba shops in the Mehsana district, sale of liquor at fixed prices in sealed bottles was continued. The total number of shops was 611 as against 617 in the previous year. Rationing of liquor was continued at 50 per cent of 1942-43 sales.

The number of detected offences decreased from 437 to 338 owing to stricter control being exercised by the preventive staff.

144. CO-OPERATION WITH THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT — To co-operate with the Bombay Government in their scheme of prohibition and dry areas, the government continued the following measures, adopted in previous years:—

- (i) in the Baroda district rationing of ten shops within three miles of the Jambusar — Waghra dry area;
- (ii) in the Mehsana district rationing of twenty-seven shops, including the Kalol and Dehgam kasba shops; and
- (iii) in the Navsari district rationing of six shops situated on the Andhatri border, and of fifty shops on the borders of Bardoli, Valod, Broach and Ankleshwar talukas, besides providing a shop-free belt.

145. REVENUE — The principal sources of excise revenue are :-

- (i) manufacture and sale of country liquor, and
- (ii) sale of foreign liquor, spirits, spirituous preparations, toddy and intoxicating and poisonous drugs.

License fee, duty and tree tax are the main items of excise revenue. Excise revenue during the year amounted to Rs. 74·45 lakhs as against Rs. 56·04 lakhs in the previous year. Of this amount, Rs. 60·07 lakhs was from country liquor, Rs. 2·46 lakhs from foreign liquor, and Rs. 9·70 lakhs from toddy. The Navsari district yielded Rs. 33·23 lakhs, the Baroda district Rs. 31·65 lakhs, the Mehsana district Rs. 9·19 lakhs, the Amreli district Rs. 0·37 lakh and the Okhamandal Rs. 0·01 lakh. The increase is the result of larger consumption usual to prosperous years and of the keen competition in auctions of country liquor, toddy, bhang and ganja.

146. TOBACCO — The Tobacco Excise Duty Act, 1943, as applied to the Baroda State was repealed and the Excise Act, framed on the lines of the Indian Central Excises and Salt Act of 1944 came into force from the 28th June 1945.

The duty levied on tobacco varies according to the purpose for which it is intended and the purpose is determined by the quality : virginia tobacco, flue cured or air cured, country tobacco and stalks, stems and refuse.

Under the Excise Act, 1945, the duty on the flue cured virginia is raised from Rs. 3·8-0 to Rs. 7·8-0 per lb, and the duty on stalks and stems will be charged according to the use for which these are intended and not at a flat rate of one anna as was being done.

Further, a license is required for curing tobacco and for wholesale trade and for working as broker or commission agent or for having a private bonded warehouse or store room. The license fee varies from Re. 1 to Rs. 100.

147. DUTY AND LICENSE FEES — The total quantity of tobacco produced was 413,358 B. mds. as against 306,466 B. mds. in the previous year and the duty realised was Rs. 121·9 lakhs as against Rs. 69·54 lakhs in the previous year.

The total quantity of country tobacco was 346,000 B. mds. and it paid a duty of Rs. 119·4 lakhs.

Only 22,020 B. mds. of virginia tobacco were produced which brought in a duty of Rs. 0·22 lakh. Stalks and stems paid Rs. 2·35 lakhs.

The quantity of tobacco consumed in the State was 40,000 B. mds. and 373,000 B. mds. were exported. The duty on these was Rs. 18.15 lakhs and Rs. 103.84 lakhs respectively.

The total license fee realised was Rs. 0.60 lakh as against Rs. 0.43 lakh, so that the total revenue from tobacco amounted to Rs. 122.6 lakhs as against Rs. 69.9 in the preceding year.

148. OPIUM — Poppy is cultivated in the Sidhpur, Visnagar, Kheralu, Patan and Vijapur talukas of the Mehsana district. During the year applications for permission to cultivate poppy were received from 33 villages of the Sidhpur, Visnagar and Kheralu talukas only. Permits to cultivate poppy were issued for 620 bighas as against 1,022 bighas in the previous year. The juice, tendered by the cultivators was 76.5 maunds as against 161.75 mds. in the previous year. The decrease was due to the reduction in the area cultivated. The cultivators are required to sell the whole of the produce to the government at a rate fixed by the government. The price for the best quality juice was raised during the year from Rs. 10 to Rs. 13 per seer.

The State has a monopoly for the manufacture of opium on the "Bengal System." The sale price of opium at the government depots was Rs. 45 as in the previous year. Besides this, a license fee is charged on a scale graduated according to sales, increasing from Rs. 7 to Rs. 10 per seer. The profit on opium issued to the licensed vendors and the license fee form the main sources of the opium revenue.

During the year, 13,560 seers of opium were sent to the depots from the opium factory as against 13,090 seers in the preceding year. The consumption of opium has been increasing as the following statement will show :—

1939-40	—	2520	srs.
1940-41	—	6020	"
1941-42	—	6020	"
1942-43	—	7490	"
1943-44	—	13090	"
1944-45	—	13560	"

After meeting the cost of production — Rs. 0.88 lakh — the net profit to the State from opium was Rs. 4.39 lakhs as against Rs. 3.51 lakhs in the preceding year.

149. MATCHES — The excise on matches amounted to Rs. 7.28 lakhs as against Rs. 7.27 lakhs in the previous year. The full amount was realised and no arrears were left.

The State received Rs. 3·43 lakhs as its share from the common pool of the match excise duty for the year 1943-44. The allocation for the year 1944-45 had not been received from the Government of India by the end of the year.

150. EXCISE DUTY ON SUGAR — The Gandevi Sugar Works and Distillery Co., Ltd., Gandevi, is the only sugar factory in the State but it did not work during the year. The duty amounting to Rs. 1212 at the rate of Rs. 3 per cwt., on the sugar stocks with the company was realised.

Under an ordinance issued in October 1944 an excise duty at the rate of Rs. 1-7-0 per standard maund was levied on the stocks owned on the 30th October 1944 by wholesale dealers. The total duty thus collected was Rs. 2·25 lakhs.

151. SALT — The salt arrangement for the Baroda, Mehsana and Navsari districts continued unchanged. A monopoly contract to collect salt in the Kodinar taluka was given by auction for three years from 1st August 1944 for Rs. 1,901 per year. Out of 84,330 mds. of salt (including 14,791 maunds of the previous year) collected from the natural deposits, 57,070 mds. were consumed during the year leaving a balance of 27,260 maunds.

In Okhamandal the right to collect salt in 12 salt pans continued with the Tata Chemical Co., Ltd. The company exported 7,85,568 mds., to Bengal against 11,39,712 mds., in the preceding year.

The Baroda Government received from the Government of India Rs. 5·68 lakhs for 1944-45 on account of duty on salt consumed in the Gujarat possessions of the State.

Petroleum

152. LICENSES ISSUED FOR THE IMPORT ETC. OF PETROLEUM — Under the Petroleum Act 167 licenses for the import, transport and storage of petroleum were issued during the year and Rs. 4,800 were realised as license fee.

153. PERMITS GIVEN FOR STORAGE OF CARBIDE — Under the carbide of calcium rules, 6 permits for the storage of carbide were given during the year and Rs. 31 were realised.

Customs & port dues

154. SOURCES & REVENUE — The following table shows the revenue obtained from:—

- (a) sea customs and port dues in the Amreli and Okhamandal districts,
- (b) protective customs in the Amreli district,
- (c) customs duties at Chandod, and
- (d) "Armar cess" in the Navsari district.

District		1944-45	1943-44
Baroda	...	... Rs. 1,686	Rs. 1,566
Mehsana	...	... ...	951
Navsari	...	... 6,438	5,824
Amreli	...	... 38,069	28,168
Okhamandal port dues	...	... 4,41,329	3,54,491
" customs	...	... <u>15,03,285</u>	<u>33,92,957</u>
Total	...	... <u>19,90,807</u>	<u>37,83,957</u>

The decrease of Rs. 17.93 lakhs was mainly due to the decrease in customs revenue on petrol at Okha.

The Government of India have agreed to refund to the State the customs duty realised at the ports of Navsari and Billimora after deducting the cost of collection. The allocation for the year 1944-45 had not been received from the Government of India by the end of the year.

155. STAMPS — The following table shows the revenue derived from the sale of stamps in lakhs of rupees:—

Source of revenue		1944-45	1943-44
Court fee stamps	...	... 5.80	5.88
Revenue stamps...	...	... 13.29	12.90
Special levies	...	... 0.04	0.06
Miscellaneous receipts	...	... <u>0.21</u>	<u>0.15</u>
	Total	... <u>19.43</u>	<u>18.99</u>
Less sum refunded	...	1.07	1.01
Net income	...	18.36	17.98

The expenditure on stamps was Rs. 0.62 lakh as compared to Rs. 0.47 lakh in the preceding year, the difference being due to the increase in the number of stamps printed during the year.

Development activities

156. TAGAVI — During the year Rs. 1.61 lakhs were advanced as tagavi - Rs. 0.32 for improvement of land mainly for installing pumps, Rs. 0.79 for seeds and manure and Rs. 0.50 for purchase of cattle.

During the year, instalments amounting to Rs. 6.02 lakhs fell due. In Okhamandal, on account of the damage caused by heavy rains, the collection of tagavi amounting to Rs. 2.84 lakhs was

suspended. In the Amreli and Navsari districts the collection were as usual good — 98 per cent in Amreli and 90 per cent in Navsari — but in the Baroda district it was 82 per cent and in Mehsana only 78 per cent. The total realisations amounted to Rs. 2.85 lakhs. The total amount of tagavi outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 12.4 lakhs.

157. RELIEF OF CONGESTED VILLAGES — Early in 1936, the attention of government was engaged on the question of relieving congestion in villages. On a scheme developed by the revenue department, the government laid down principles for the extension of village sites.

Where the village site area falls short of 30 bighas for a population of 700 or 43 bighas for 1,000, the area should be held to be insufficient. In such villages, lands suitable for expansion should be selected, acquired and divided into convenient plots, and building regulations should be drawn up and enforced. No site-rent should be charged for the first three years, half the rent should be charged for the next five years and full rent should be charged after eight years.

During the year, 20 villages were selected for site extension, of which in eight the scheme has been completed, and in 8 more the work is in progress. New rules are being framed to expedite acquisition and compensation procedure for the land to be acquired for new sites, but the principal difficulty is to induce the people to alter their mode of life and live in a more spacious way.

158. FACILITIES FOR WELL SINKING — Besides tagavi, special facilities are given to encourage agriculturists of the Mehsana district to sink wells. Agriculturists may have wells sunk in their land at government expense, but in such cases a water rate of Re. 1 per bigha is charged for lands protected by the well, if the well is successful. The cultivator, however, has the option to purchase the well at cost price paid in 10 yearly instalments.

During the year 519 wells were completed and work on 407 was in progress. Since the beginning of this scheme 833 wells have been sunk at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs irrigating 8,795 bighas.

159. SPECIAL MEASURES IN THE MEHSANA DISTRICT — In 1939, a committee consisting of the sar suba, the commissioner of agriculture, and the irrigation engineer was appointed to study rural problems of the Harij, Patan, Chanasma, Kadi and Kalol talukas, which had been suffering from a succession of bad seasons. The committee was asked to study specially, the possibility of change in agricultural practices, extension of well irrigation, development of cottage industries, and other measures of planned improvement. The committee's

report was a comprehensive one recommending a ten year plan of improvements falling under (a) irrigation, (b) dry farming, (c) pasture and animal husbandry, (d) agricultural finance and (e) improvements in rural education. The government passed orders generally approving the recommendations and setting apart every year Rs. 2 lakhs for the development. A number of schemes have been formulated and work on these was continued. Irrigation channels were reconditioned; repairs of 101 of the 142 tanks recommended by the committee have been completed and of 12 tanks were in progress. The progress made with the dry farming station at Harij, the Rabari colonies and the Thakarda boarding school at Deodarda and soil conservation measures at Hirapura are described in the chapter on agriculture.

CHAPTER XII

Civil Supplies

160. **GENERAL** — The State, even in a normal year, is a deficit area with regard to all food grains, except pulses. The failure of the kharif crops and the partial failure of rabi crops intensified difficulties; and the deficit in the major food grains, for the year under report, it was feared would be no less than 1,65,000 tons.

To deal with all aspects of the problems comprehensively the government created a special ministry assisted by a directorate of civil supplies and to assist them and enlist public co-operation, committees have been appointed in each taluka and district. His Highness the Maharaja has taken a personal interest in the civil supplies administration and the appointment of the Huzur committee of inquiry is an evidence of his concern for the welfare of his subjects. This committee, which consisted of an official president and leaders of important political organisations of the State, was appointed in December 1944 and was directed to study the food situation and suggest improvements in the system of procuring and distributing food. On the completion of its survey and report, the committee was organised on an entirely unofficial and permanent basis and continues to be a useful link between the government and the people.

The measures taken by the government fall into three heads :—

- (i) Grow more food campaign ;
- (ii) Importing of food grain from outside the State ; and
- (iii) Distribution of the available supplies on an equitable basis.

Each of these measures demand detailed consideration.

(i) **GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN** — Since the beginning of 1942, the government have been taking measures, some obligatory and others concessional, to induce agriculturists to grow more food crops instead of cotton and other commercial crops.

As a compulsory measure, the minimum area to be sown with food crops in any holding was fixed in each area according to the nature of the soil and the types of crops grown, etc. In the Baroda district the minimum varied from 40 to 70 per cent. and in the Navsari district from 50 to 80 per cent. In the Amreli and Mehsana districts the area under commercial crops was limited to that recorded in the preceding year.

Another important measure to induce cultivators to grow food crops instead of cotton, was a concession of 25 per cent in the assessment but due to heavy rains the concession was withdrawn. Upto the end of July 1944 as a result of this concession 254,361 bighas of land were brought under food crops.

The third effective measure taken by government was to encourage cultivators to bring marginal lands and cultivable waste under the plough, by exempting such lands from assessment and water cess, and offering rewards and tagavi.

The government assisted the farmers to change over from commercial to food crops by providing them with seeds and fertilizers at concession rates.

In these measures the government were assisted by the rise in price of food grain so that it became more profitable to grow these rather than cotton, except of the highest grades.

As a result of these measures, the area under commercial crops has decreased in these 4 years by about 400,000 bighas and 95,000 bighas of additional land has been brought under food crops. At a moderate estimate this has increased the food supply by about 50,000 tons per year.

These measures were continued but the failure of kharif crops due to excessive rains forced the government to relax some of the measures in certain areas.

(ii) SUPPLY OF FOOD GRAINS — In a normal year, the consumption of food grains in the State is about 400,000 tons, whereas the produce does not exceed 300,000 tons. The deficit is met by imports. During the year as a result of the failure of kharif crops, it was feared the deficit would be 1,65,000 tons, which was almost double the normal deficit. As against this, the government of India allotted to the State, under the basic plan, only about 71,000 tons. The wheat and juwar harvests, however, were unusually good and the State was in a position to surrender 25,000 tons out of this quota.

As in the preceding years, the government through its agencies bought over the surplus of the food growing areas for the deficit areas. The total food grains purchased was 41,500 tons: 13,000 tons of rice, 2,700 tons of bajri, 16,500 tons of juwar and 9,300 tons of wheat.

The quota allotted by the Government of India was 70,765 tons. Of this the State accepted 45,000 tons — 26,000 tons of millets, 10,000 tons of rice and 9,000 tons of wheat and, from the Deccan States, about 1,800 tons of wheat and millets. Although the staple food grain, bajri, was severely rationed, people were unwilling to use juwar in its place, and the State had to surrender 19,500 tons of the juwar

quota. The want of bajri was made good by the use of lesser millets, such as kodra and to some extent of pulses.

Though the State was deficit in major food grains, there was a surplus in pulses and an export quota under the basic plan of 19,000 tons for tur, moong and urd was allotted. The actual exports during the year totalled about 17,000 tons - 8,500 tons of tur and moong each. The quota for the year May 1945 - April 1946 is 9,000 tons of tur and 9,600 tons of moong and 700 tons of urd. Some of this had already been exported during the year.

(iii) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE FOOD GRAINS

(a) Control of prices

The following legislation has been enacted to control prices and ensure supplies :—

- (i) Defence of India Act, as applied to Baroda State.
- (ii) Price Control Act.
- (iii) Hoarding and profiteering prevention Order.

During the year 520 persons were prosecuted for profiteering, hoarding and similar infringement of the rules relating to food grains, kerosene, etc. Conviction was obtained in 320 or 64 per cent cases. Forty one persons were sent to prison and the remaining 279 were fined as against 10 imprisoned and 484 fined in the preceding year.

A special staff has been appointed for inspection of shops and accounts of shops, etc. and special magistrates have been appointed to prevent delay in the disposal of these cases. These measures have increased the effectiveness of the legislation.

In spite of these measures, there was again a rise in prices, specially of bajri and jowar, all over the State during the year. This upward movement is seen in the following statement showing the number of pounds obtainable per rupee in the year before the war and in 1943-44 and 1944-45 :—

	Rice			Bajri			Juwar			Wheat			Pulses		
	1939-40	1943-44	1944-45	1939-40	1943-44	1944-45	1939-40	1943-44	1944-45	1939-40	1943-44	1944-45	1939-40	1943-44	1944-45
Baroda	... 27	4	3½	16	6	7	25	7	7	15	4	4½	20	7	8
Mehsana	... 16	4	4	20	9	7½	22	10	8	19	7	6	12	7	10
Navsari	... 22	5	5½	16	10	8	21	6	7	14	4	6	14	8	7
Amreli	... 20	4	3½	17	11	9	20	13	10	15	5	5	15	7	10
Okhamandal	16	4	5	17	11	8	18	13	8	16	7	6	16	5	6

(b) Distribution Organisation

161. BARODA CITY — The city with a population 2·19 lakhs forms a unit by itself for the distribution of food grains and special fair price and cheap grain shops had been organised to prevent black markets and for the relief of government servants. These were supplied grain from the central government stores and distributed on a ration basis. They worked under the supervision of government and receive assistance from government in the form of management and rent expenses and rebates. The following statement shows the important part played by these shops in the supply of food grain at controlled price.

Kind	No.	Number of card-holders	Number of persons served	Grain sold Bengal maunds	Value lakhs of rupees
CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS					
government	...	27	11,964	52,931	1,56,522
non-government	...	14	6,161	24,385	74,334
FAIR PRICE SHOPS					
government	...	29	18,139	87,632	1,64,726
co-operative societies	...	10	3,390	18,877	10,073
Total	...	80	39,654	1,83,845	4,05,660
					55·8

These 80 shops supplied food grains to four-fifths of the city before rationing came into operation. With the introduction of rationing from 1st August 1945, these shops were closed and the retail trade was entrusted to experienced merchants and co-operative societies.

162. DISTRIBUTION IN THE DISTRICTS — Arrangements similar to those made for the city were in operation in the districts as well. There were 269 cheap grain and fair price shops working — 233 of these were organised with and received assistance from the donation of Rs. 10·5 lakhs graciously given in the previous year, by His Highness the Maharaja for the relief of his subjects. The important work done by these shops is shown in the following statement:—

District	Shops	Number of persons served	Grain sold	
			Quantity	Value lakhs of rupees
Baroda *	...	67	2,47,800	2,00,500
Mehsana	...	86	7,13,000	2,67,000
Navsari	...	48	2,07,500	1,59,600
Amreli	...	47	3,45,000	1,33,000
Okhamandal	...	21	49,900	98,700
Total	...	269	15,63,200	8,58,800
				107·4

* Excluding the city.

Special relief measures were adopted for government servants, the lower middle class people, the old and infirm and the poorer areas.

- (i) *Government servants* : A rebate of 10 per cent was given to government servants drawing a salary of Rs. 100 or less and of 20 per cent to those drawing Rs. 30 or less. The total rebate allowed during the year was Rs. 4.35 lakhs.
- (ii) *Lower middle class people* : Lower middle class people with fixed salaries of Rs. 50 or less suffered severely from the rise in prices. To assist them food grain was supplied at cost price. During the year 59,604 persons received help amounting to Rs. 29,725.

Besides this, the old and infirm were given grain free of cost – 11,237 persons received grain worth Rs. 19,991. An additional relief costing Rs. 4,130 was given to the necessitous areas in the Mehsana and Amreli districts.

Employers shops : Under the Factory Grain Shop Order, 42 factory shops were working to supply food grain to their employees. These supplied 1,63,542 Bengal maunds of grain at controlled price to 1,39,670 employees.

Sugar : The quota allotted to the State by the Government of India for the 12 months beginning from 1st. December 1944 was 15,000 tons of sugar. It was distributed under a ration system. In the city the ration was 24 lbs. and in the villages 9 lbs. per year.

Gur : The quota allotted to the State was 15,000 tons from the U. P. and 10,000 tons from Kolhapur. This gur was distributed in the districts according to their requirements and sold at controlled rates. The local produce of the Amreli district was sufficient to meet the needs of the district.

Cloth : The government continued participation in the Government of India scheme of standard cloth. The total quantity of standard cloth received and sold during the year was 6,66,494 yards and 5,27,807 yards as against 21,80,468 yards and 15,84,701 yards, respectively, in the preceding year. Besides this, standard cloth worth Rs. 13,800 was distributed free of cost or at concession price to the poor.

Kerosene and crude oil : These oils are supplied on the basis of about 40 per cent of the 1941 consumption. The quantity of kerosene received during the year was 9,11,809 tins as against 7,15,115 tins in the preceding year. Kerosene was distributed everywhere on a ration system. The total quota of diesel oil was 1,97,245 units as against 1,15,733 units in the previous year. Out of the year's quota 1,01,965 units were used by industries and the remaining 95,280 units for agricultural pumps.

House rent control order

163. The influx of population into the larger towns of the State as a result of the rise of new industries or commercial prosperity created a house famine and profiteering and called for government control of rents. The House rent control order was accordingly passed in 1944. The order was extended, during the year, to Petlad, Karjan, Vadnagar, Harij, Dabhoi, Vijapur and Sidhpur. It now applies to these towns and Baroda, Mehsana, Patan, Kalol, Navsari, Bilmora and Amreli.

During the year, 210 cases were filed of which 197 were by landlords and 13 by tenants. Of these 70 were disposed of in favour of landlords and 62 in favour of tenants. Of the 210 cases, 142 were filed in Baroda city and 39 in Navsari. There were no cases filed in Dabhoi, Mehsana, Harij, Vadnagar, Vijapur and Sidhpur.

CHAPTER XIII

COMMEMORATION FUNDS

Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund

164. CONSTITUTION — The main object of the Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund, which represents the interest on rupees one crore endowed by His Highness the late Maharaja Sir Sayajirao III, is to assist in the improvement in village life in all its aspects — economic, social and cultural. In carrying out the object, special preference is given

- (i) to poorer areas in which development has not kept pace with the rest of the State, and
- (ii) to the needs of the backward communities like the Rani-paraj, Antyaj, Thakarda, Koli, Rabaris etc.

A board which includes representatives of the district local boards, the Dhara Sabha and the backward classes is entrusted with administration of the trust. The Dewan is the president and a member of government works as secretary.

165. PROGRAMME OF WORKS — A long term programme has been adopted and grouped under three heads :—

- (a) works of public utility in individual villages,
- (b) schemes for backward areas and classes, and
- (c) head-quarter schemes, which will benefit large areas or sections of the rural population.

For village works, a ten year programme was sanctioned in 1938-39 after a careful and comprehensive survey. Every village has been allotted a grant for the work or works it needed most, determined in consultation with the village panchayat. Such works absorb Rs. 2-40 lakhs every year. The special schemes sanctioned for the backward areas and classes and the head-quarter schemes absorb about half a lakh of rupees each.

In accordance with the wishes of His Highness the Maharaja that the attached areas should share in the benefits of the trust, Rs. 0-50 lakh per year are earmarked out of the income of the trust, for promoting its objects in these areas.

166. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE — The income of the fund during the year was Rs. 8·06 lakhs. The interest from the endowment was Rs. 3·5 lakhs, and the balance of previous years Rs. 2·28 lakhs; the village panchayats contributed Rs. 1·05 lakhs and interest on deposits and miscellaneous items amounted to Rs. 1·23 lakhs.

The expenditure on village works was Rs. 3·74 lakhs, on schemes for backward areas and classes Rs. 0·46 lakh and on head-quarter schemes Rs. 0·37 lakh, besides Rs. 0·13 lakh spent on the broadcasting station and Rs. 0·35 lakh allotted for schemes of improvement in the attached areas. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 6·16 lakhs. The balance at the end of the year was Rs. 1·90 lakhs.

167. VILLAGE WORKS — In all 924 works were to be executed during the year. Of these, 632 were works begun but not completed in previous years and 292 were on the 1944-45 programme. Of these, 247 works were completed as against 227 in the preceding year, 257 were in progress and 420 remained to be taken up. The difficulty of obtaining building materials has seriously hampered the execution of these works.

Water supply for men and cattle and roads and culverts form the primary needs of villages and the notable part played by this trust in meeting these can be judged from the following statement showing the works completed:—

District	Protected drinking water supply	Water supply for cattle etc.	Roads, culverts etc.
Baroda	...	28	24
Mehsana	23	54	9
Navsari	...	18	19
Amreli	11	6	12
Okhamandal	1	5	5
Total	35	111	69
Total for 1938-45	374	684	581

168. SCHEMES FOR BACKWARD CLASSES AND AREAS — The most important of these schemes are the Diamond Jubilee boarding schools at Deodarda near Patan and at Dabhoi. A large farm is provided and great emphasis is laid on practical agriculture. It is intended that these schools should become centres of rural reconstruction for the Thakardas and backward classes of these areas.

Another important scheme is the Rabari colonization scheme. Twenty five colonies have been founded in the Mehsana district with the object of inducing the Rabaris to give up nomadic habits and

take to cultivation of fodder and improved methods of rearing cattle. Fuller details will be found in the chapter on agriculture.

The Harijan ashrams of Baroda and Navsari and the Rani-paraj boarding house of Baroda and five other similar institutions were given grants. The Diamond Jubilee Antyaj boarding house at Vyara, accommodating 25 students, was maintained at a cost of Rs. 3,075.

Assistance to backward classes and areas was given in several other forms : Loans were advanced to members of cooperative societies; implements and seeds worth Rs. 7,475 were supplied to the agriculturists and grants sanctioned for opening new libraries.

The total expenditure on these schemes during the year was Rs. 0.46 lakh, of which Rs. 29,616 was on the boarding schools.

169. HEAD-QUARTER SCHEMES — During the year Rs. 37,276 were spent on the head-quarter schemes. The health unit at Kosamba, the adult literacy campaign, poultry farming, pest control, film publicity, supply of plant-pullers, maintenance of the new classes of the Diamond Jubilee cottage industries institute at Baroda, the publication of Gram Vikas Mala, come under this head. The very important question of prevention of soil erosion has also been taken up. Selected areas in the Mehsana and Amreli districts have been surveyed and methods of preventing soil erosion are being scientifically investigated. Further details will be found under the chapter on agriculture.

Diamond Jubilee People's Fund

The people of the State collected this fund to commemorate the diamond jubilee of His Highness the late Maharaja Sir Sayajirao III. The total fund amounts to Rs. 7.59 lakhs and yields an income of about Rs. 27,000 a year.

The income is utilized for awarding scholarships to bonafide agriculturists for obtaining practical instructions in agriculture, horticulture and subsidiary occupations like leather tanning, paper making, and tailoring. Substantial amount is also spent each year for encouraging khaddar industry in the State.

During the year, scholarships worth Rs. 2,545 were awarded to 66 candidates for training in agriculture. Besides this, 117 farmers were taken on tour to visit government agricultural farms to acquaint them with improved methods of agriculture.

For training in cottage industries scholarships worth Rs. 3,967 were given to 66 candidates.

Spinning and weaving were also encouraged. A subsidy at the rate of 1 an. per yard of khaddar is given to institutions producing khadi. During the year, 18 institutions in the State which produced 1,46,076 sq. yards of khadi, were given subsidies amounting to Rs. 8,196.

A scheme for training women from rural areas in cottage industries and rural problems is in operation. A boarding house, under the supervision of a matron, is maintained for them in Baroda and special classes have been arranged at the Maharani Chimnabai Industrial Home for women. During the year, 10 women were given scholarships and trained.

The total expenditure on these schemes during the year was Rs. 18,532.

Shree Sayajirao III Memorial Trust Fund

170. OBJECT — To perpetuate the memory of His Highness the late Maharaja Sayajirao III, a sum of rupees one crore was endowed by His Highness the Maharaja from his private funds. It was his wish that all classes and communities, without exception, should receive the benefit of this trust.

171. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE — The income of trust during the year was Rs. 4.41 lakhs. The interest from the endowment was Rs. 3.5 lakhs and the balance of previous years Rs. 0.3 lakh. The interest on investments was Rs. 0.61 lakh. The total expenditure was Rs. 0.53 lakh and Rs. 3.57 lakhs were invested in government securities. As no new schemes have been sanctioned during the war, the income of this fund has been accumulating. The accumulated fund now amounts to Rs. 19.62 lakhs.

172. SCHEMES SANCTIONED — Four schemes have so far been sanctioned :—

- (i) "The Sayajirao Chair of Indian Culture and Civilization" has been created in the Benares Hindu University with an annual endowment of Rs. 21,000. The purpose of the donation is defined as follows :—

"The donor believes, with his illustrious predecessor, that there is a distinct type of thought and life in India, which has been enduring through the centuries, and which is India's greatest contribution to the world; in it, the Hindu and the Moslem, the Christian and the Parsee find common ground. It will be the main function of the Professor and the Fellows to promote the cultural unity of India, by means of scholarly publications and lectures. Such publications shall be included in the Sayajirao Gaekwad Series to be inaugurated as a part of this foundation".

Dr. Sir Radhakrishnan was appointed "The Sayajirao Professor of Indian Culture and Civilization".

- (ii) A grant of Rs. 10,000 a year is made to the Maharani Shantadevi Trust for medical aid to women and children of the State.
- (iii) Sayajirao memorial scholarships for the sons of sardars, assamdars etc., of the State have been instituted and a sum, not exceeding Rs. 30,000 a year, is set aside for the purpose. During the year, 68 scholarships amounting to Rs. 20,875 were awarded. Of these, 34 were for secondary education, 29 for higher, 1 for technical, 2 for public schools and 2 for foreign studies.
- (iv) Two scholarships, one for chemical engineering and another for textile chemistry, available to B. Sc. students of the Baroda College have also been instituted.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

District Local Boards

173. INCOME — The total income of local boards fell by Rs. 0·70 lakh, from Rs. 9·0 lakhs to Rs. 8·30 lakhs, mainly because of the decrease of Rs. 0·82 lakh in the income from local cess. The income of the different boards was:

Baroda Rs. 3·74 lakhs, Mehsana Rs. 2·89 Navsari Rs. 1·57 lakhs, Amreli (including Okhamandal) Rs. 0·80 lakh.

The following statement shows their income from various sources:—

(*Figures in lakhs of rupees*)

Source of income	1943-44	1944-45
Local cess	... 7·13	6·31
Government contribution	... 0·94	1·24
Contribution from private individuals	0·19	0·12
Miscellaneous	... 0·74	0·63
Total	... 9·00	8·30

The paucity of the means at the disposal of district boards severely limits their capacity to assist in the rural development, and for that reason, it is a factor in dissuading many capable leaders of villages from seeking election to these boards. The boards' responsibility is mainly confined to feeder roads and village water supply but in providing even these essential requirements, progress has been distressingly slow. To expedite the programme the government have from time to time augmented the resources of these boards either by giving direct financial assistance for particular works or by placing at their disposal new sources of income or by relieving them of some of their responsibilities. In 1939, for instance, the boards were relieved of their contribution towards education, thus adding Rs. 3·25 lakhs to their resources. But none of these measures have appreciably affected the position. During the year, the government have again reviewed the working of these boards and they have come to the conclusion that raising the local cess from 1 anna to 2 annas in a rupee of land tax will not be an inappropriate measure considering the need of rural roads and the high prices of agricultural produce.

174. EXPENDITURE — The expenditure increased from Rs. 7.95 lakhs to Rs. 10.13 lakhs, civil works and sanitation being the main items on which expenditure increased. The cost of administration decreased from 16 per cent. to 14 per cent. of the total expenditure. The following statement gives the expenditure on each item and its percentage to the total expenditure:—

(*Figures in lakhs of rupees*)

Heads of expenditure	1943-44		1944-45	
	Expenditure	Percentage	Expenditure	Percentage
Administration	... 1.32	16.5	1.44	14.2
Civil works	... 2.12	26.5	3.34	32.9
Education	... 0.40	5.2	0.44	4.4
Medicine and vaccination	... 0.40	5.2	0.36	3.6
Sanitation and other public conveniences.	1.74	21.8	2.40	23.7
Contribution to municipalities and village boards.	1.24	15.6	1.32	13.0
Miscellaneous	... 0.73	9.2	0.83	8.2
Total	... 7.95	100	10.13	100

The expenditure on the main items of civil works is shown below in lakhs of rupees:

Item	1943-44	1944-45
Communication	1.60	3.00
Buildings	0.14	0.11
Water supply	1.29	1.48
Other works	0.66	0.99
Total	3.69	5.58

175. FEEDER ROADS — To connect as many villages as possible with the railway system, with which Baroda is so well served, a programme of feeder roads was sanctioned in 1928-29. The number of roads on the programme, subsequently expanded a little, was 159 with a length of about 479 miles. Of these, 135 roads covering a length of about 407 miles have been constructed. The original programmes of the Amreli and Navsari districts have been completed and new programmes have been prepared. The expenditure incurred upto the end of the year was Rs. 10.78 lakhs of which Rs. 5.28 lakhs were contributed by the government. The programme and the work completed in each district is shown below:—

District	Sanctioned programme 1928-29			Completed upto July 1945			Government contribution in lakhs of rupees	
	Roads	Mileage	Estimated cost in lakhs of rupees	Roads	Mileage	Actual cost in lakhs of rupees		
Baroda	...	84	188.7	14.44	67	142.5	6.09	3.98
Mehsana	...	58	235.0	31.13	54	219.2	2.53	0.51
Navsari	...	9	36.0	4.95	6	25.6	1.71	0.61
Amreli	...	8	19.6	0.35	8	19.6	0.45	0.18

176. VILLAGE PROTECTED WATER SUPPLY — After the completion of programme of 459 village wells, the different prant panchayats have undertaken new triennial programmes. In the Baroda district, out of 62 wells on the programme, 49 have been completed and 8 were in progress. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 22,000. In the Mehsana district 93 new wells were taken up out of which 25 wells were completed and work on 68 wells was in progress. Besides this, 25 cattle troughs and tanks were taken up. The expenditure during the year on these works was Rs. 91,000. In the Navsari district, 55 wells were completed at the cost of Rs. 49,000. The total government contribution was Rs. 17,000.

Along with the programme of village wells, a triennial programme of tube wells was adopted for villages, where potable water could not be tapped even at great depth by sinking ordinary wells. The programme has been postponed because of the prohibitive rise in cost.

177. ANTI-MALARIA CAMPAIGN ETC. — Among the important activities of prant panchayats, the extension of anti-malaria measures should be mentioned. Malaria constitutes the main menace to health in the State and in order that the worst areas might be taken up on a systematic plan, the government have given the following grants:—

- (i) Rs. 8,400 a year for five years, for extending the operations in 208 villages of the Gandevi, Mahuva, Songadh, Vyara and Mangrol talukas in the Navsari district;
- (ii) besides this, a scheme has been formulated in cooperation with the Navsari prant panchayat to open 5 dispensaries to 11 centres in the worst affected areas of the district to carry out a systematic campaign for the eradication of malaria from those areas;
- (iii) Rs. 7,900 a year for five years, for extending work to 160 villages of the Kadi, Kalol and Kheralu talukas in the Mehsana district;
- (iv) Rs. 2,500 a year for three years, for operations in 80 villages of the Kodinar taluka in the Amreli district;

- (v) Rs. 4,400 a year for three years for work in 150 villages of the Sankheda, Savli, Vaghodia and Dabhoi talukas in the Baroda district.

Campaigns for the eradication of guinea worms are in progress in the Sankheda taluka of the Baroda district and in the Chanasma and Harij talukas of the Mehsana district. These schemes are financed entirely by the government.

178. VILLAGE PANCHAYATS — To encourage village panchayats to undertake works of public utility of permanent nature, the government and the prant panchayats contribute an amount equal to one fourth the amount raised by the people either by taxation, contribution or manual labour. During the year under report, few village panchayats took advantage of this concession and only Rs. 5,063 was contributed by the government for such works.

Baroda City Municipality

179. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE — The following table shows the income and expenditure of the municipality :—

INCOME

(Figures in lakhs of rupees)

Sources of income	1944-45	Percentage	1943-44	Percentage
Government grant	1.25	8.4	1.25	9.7
Municipal rates & taxes:—				
Terminal tax	5.45	36.4	4.38	34.3
House tax	1.64	11.0	1.56	12.2
Vehicle tax	0.94	6.5	0.69	5.4
Water tax	2.15	14.2	2.11	16.5
Conservancy	0.76	4.3	0.74	5.8
Drainage	0.36	2.4	0.33	2.6
Other sources of revenue	1.20	8.0	0.99	7.8
Miscellaneous	1.28	8.8	0.73	5.7
Total	15.03	100.0	12.78	100.0

There was a general improvement during the year in all items of income of the municipality and the total income increased by Rs. 2.25 lakhs from Rs. 12.78 lakhs to Rs. 15.03 lakhs. The main increase was in the receipts from the terminal tax due to the increase in the value of goods imported into the city.

The incidence of taxation per head was Rs. 7-3-6 as against Rs. 6-8-6 an increase of as. 11 per head.

The following statement shows the expenditure of the municipality:—

(*Figures in lakhs of rupees*)

Head of expenditure	1944-45	Percentage	1943-44	Percentage
Administration	..	1.79	13.2	1.72
Other charges	..	6.19	45.1	5.34
Roads	..	0.50	3.4	0.51
Public works	..	0.15	1.1	0.32
Conservancy	..	1.82	13.2	1.83
Lighting	..	0.63	4.4	0.75
Water works	..	0.86	6.2	1.96
Drainage	..	1.30	12.6	1.35
Compensation	..	0.12	0.8	0.12
Total	..	13.36	100.0	13.90
				100.0

There was a net decrease of Rs. 0.54 lakh in the expenditure. The curtailment of programme of repairs of roads was responsible for a decrease of Rs. 0.16 lakh. The decrease of Rs. 1.29 lakhs shown in the expenditure on water works, lighting, drainage and conservancy is due to the accounts not having been adjusted during the year. The increase of Rs. 0.91 lakh in expenditure on administration and other charges is almost entirely due to the dearness allowance given to municipal servants.

Malaria which formerly constituted the chief menace to the city, had been brought under control by the anti-malaria measures, begun in 1932 and continued since then. The number of cases reported decreased by 60 per cent from 34,000 in 1931-32 to 13,000 in 1940-41. But the difficulty in obtaining quinine and the chemicals used in anti-malaria measures, due to the war, have been responsible for a recrudescence of malaria and 29,700 cases were reported, during the year.

180. WORKS OF PUBLIC UTILITY — Among the important works undertaken during the year, the following may be mentioned :—

Cheap grain shops : Four cheap grain shops were conducted for the poor of Baroda city from the grant of Rs. 3.5 lakhs sanctioned by the municipality in 1943-44. These shops supplied grain to 1,485 card holders for 6,000 persons. The cost to the municipality was Rs. 5,910.

Propaganda : Propaganda for popularising vaccination against small-pox and inoculation against typhoid was conducted. Booklets on the prevention of tuberculosis were distributed free. Twenty-one magic lantern lectures on the prevention of diseases were arranged in different parts of the city.

District municipalities

181. DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES — There are 41 municipalities in the moffussil — 11 'A' class in larger towns and 27 'B' class in the smaller, while the 3 villages of Makarpura, Attarsumba and Songadh have been given 'B' class municipality for special reasons. All 'A' class municipalities elect their own presidents; in 'B' class municipalities the vahivatdar is ex-officio president, except in Unjha, which has been given the right to elect its president. The life of all municipalities was extended by one year upto 31st July 1946 on account of war conditions.

182. 'A' CLASS MUNICIPALITIES — The main sources of income of these municipalities are house tax and octroi. As octroi hampers trade, they have been urged from time to time to replace it by other forms of direct taxation but without effect. None of the municipalities has abolished octroi.

The total income, during the year, was Rs. 8·43 lakhs as against Rs. 7·59 lakhs in the preceding year. There was a general increase in all the principal items of revenue.

The main items of expenditure of the municipalities are lighting, water supply, drainage, roads and conservancy. During the year, the total expenditure was Rs. 9·11 lakhs as against Rs. 10·37, the expenditure on drainage, water supply, and roads being lower than in the preceding year.

The extent and efficiency of the services rendered by these municipalities are limited. Every where municipal taxation is very light as is indicated by the incidence of taxation per head of population. The population, the revenue and the incidence of taxation of these municipalities are shown below:—

Name	Population	Income from taxes Rs.	Incidence
Navsari ...	35,455	1,63,979	4-10- 0
Mehsana ...	15,874	52,813	3- 4- 9
Visnagar ...	17,227	54,911	3- 3- 0
Kalol ...	14,670	45,843	2-11- 9
Amreli ...	22,6 ¹²	60,769	2-10- 4
Patan ...	36,380	90,950	2- 7- 8
Bilimora ...	12,720	31,800	2- 7- 6
Sidhpur ...	20,696	49,153	2- 5-11
Gandevi ...	8,652	17,545	1-14-10
Dabhoi ...	20,507	26,916	1- 5- 0

The incidence has increased during the last three years in all the municipalities except in Dabhoi, where low as it was, it has decreased still further.

Two important works investigated or undertaken during the year deserve mention :

- (i) *Amreli water supply* : His Highness the Maharaja on the occasion of his visit to Amreli in November 1940 announced a gift of Rs. 10·15 lakhs for the city's water supply scheme. The scheme is under execution.
- (ii) *Anti-malaria campaign* : Anti-malaria measures were continued by the Navsari, Gandevi and Bilimora municipalities. The government bears half the cost of these measures.

183. 'B' CLASS MUNICIPALITIES — The main sources of income of these municipalities are octroi, house tax and government subsidies. Makarpura, Songadh and Attarsumba municipalities receive permanent government grants amounting to Rs. 6,695 to supplement their meagre resources.

The total income of these municipalities, during the year, was Rs. 5·20 lakhs as against Rs. 5·40 lakhs in the previous year. There was an appreciable increase in all the items of revenue, but the government subsidy decreased by Rs. 0·97 lakh, as the purpose for which it was given, namely, drainage schemes of Dharmaj and Sojitra, had been completed. The expenditure declined from Rs. 5·79 lakhs to Rs. 5·06 lakhs, principally because the drainage works had been executed.

The incidence of taxation per head of population of these municipalities was Rs. 1-15-6 in the Mehsana district, Rs. 1-6-10 in the Navsari district, Rs. 1-6-3 in the Amreli district, Rs. 1-5-2 in the Baroda district and Rs. 1-2-4 in Okhamandal. The minimum was Re. 0-1-8 in Makarpura and the maximum Rs. 2-9-1 in Bhadran.

Water works and drainage : Out of the 30 municipalities 8 have protected water works while schemes for Dwarka and Beyt in Okhamandal and Amreli, Padra and Karjan have been prepared.

Drainage has been laid by two municipalities and in others schemes have reached various stages of investigation or completion.

Anti-malaria measures : The Vyara and Songadh municipalities in the Navsari district and the Kodinar municipality in the Amreli district continued anti-malaria campaign. The government bears half the cost of these measures.

CHAPTER XV

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LEGISLATION

184. **SOCIAL LEGISLATION** — The social legislation in the State represents the accepted policy of the government that in social matters the statute book must reflect the highest ideals of the race. The laws in force in the State are :—

Child Marriage Prevention Act;
Hindu Divorce Act;
Hindu women's property legislation;
Hindu Monogamy Act;
Special Marriage Act;
Muslim Women's Divorce Act;
The Caste Tyranny Removal Act;
The Social Disabilities Removal Act;
Sanyas Diksha Restraint Act.

A study of the operation of these laws over a long period brings into relief, both the difficulties of social legislation when not adequately supported by public opinion and its influence in moulding and educating public conscience.

185. **CHILD MARRIAGE PREVENTION ACT, 1904** — By this law marriages of boys under 16 and of girls under 12 was made an offence and persons responsible for the marriage were made liable to be punished with fine. For the first seven years, the law was leniently enforced, as it ran counter to old established customs. The legislation, however, was exercising a steady pressure in educating public opinion and rousing public conscience to the evils of child marriages. The government periodically reviewed the working of the Act and when they found that public opinion had sufficiently crystallised against child marriages, they progressively extended its scope and penalties and directed a stricter enforcement.

The amendment of 1928

- (i) declared marriages, in which either of the parties is below 8 years to be void;

- (ii) provided for the punishment of parties, responsible for such marriages, including the officiating priest, with a fine upto Rs. 500 or imprisonment upto one month or both; and
- (iii) raised the maximum limit of fine from Rs. 50 to Rs. 200 for child marriages over the age of eight.

In 1932, the law was brought into conformity with the British Indian Act of 1930, and the marriageable age was raised to 18 for boys and 14 of girls. By 1937, public opinion had so far advanced, that in that year on the recommendation of the Dhara Sabha, the punishment for all child marriages was raised to imprisonment upto one month or fine upto Rs. 1,000 or both.

There has been a corresponding change in the severity with which the law is administered. In 1930-33 only in 30 per cent case the fine was of more than Rs. 10; by 1943-44 the percentage had increased to 66 per cent and during the year under report, it was 69 per cent. After the amendment of 1938, it has been possible more and more, to punish with imprisonment and on an average over 100 persons are sentenced to imprisonment every year. Imprisonment is specially effective in case of the rich, who do not mind an additional expenditure which fines entail, on the occasion of a marriage. The stigma attached to imprisonment, however, is deterrent.

186. THE EFFECTS OF THE LEGISLATION — The law has been in operation for 38 years. So far as marriages of children under 8 years are concerned, the law has succeeded in practically eliminating them. They now form less than 1 in 1,000. As regards other marriages, the following table is instructive :—

Quinquennium		Average number of marriages per year	Average number of child marriages	Average percentage of child marriages to total
1916-20 ...	...	10,138	3,365	33·2
1921-30 ...	...	16,379	5,532	32·7
1931-35 ...	...	13,100	2,460	18·9
1936-40 ...	...	7,600	2,500	14·1
1940-45 ...	...	22,600	2,700	11·8
1945	...	23,600	2,708	9·7

Taking the figures for a long term since 1916, the quinquennial averages clearly indicate the progress made. While before 1920 and even 1930, a third of the marriages in the State were below the prescribed limit, now, under an increased marriageable age, only about one-ninth of the marriages come within the penalised age limits.

In 1933 just after the law was stiffened and the age limit raised, there was a large increase in infant marriages. There was again a recrudescence of this evil in 1938, but now there is a definite tendency to eliminate the evil from the social system.

The evil is most persistent in the Baroda and the Mehsana districts. In the Navsari district, during the last five years, the average number of child marriages have been 56 and in the Amreli district 197; on the other hand, in the Mehsana district the average was well over 2,000 and in the Baroda district about 1,150. This distribution coincides with the geographical distribution of the castes, among whom convictions are most frequent, namely Kolis, Thakardas, Kadwa and Lewa Kunbis, and scheduled classes. The following statement shows the percentage of convictions according to castes :—

Year	Brahmins	Kshatriyas	Vanias	Artisans	Kolis	Kunbis (Kadwa and Lewa)	Scheduled classes	Purohits	Others	
1944-45	...	3.3	1.4	0.3	2.5	17.8	19.2	19.2	21.0	15.3
1943-44	...	2.6	2.0	0.6	2.6	17.8	19.8	18.5	24.1	12.0

The Kunbis with 15 per cent of the population formed almost 20 per cent of the persons convicted, and excluding purohits or officiating priests who were punished as abettors, they formed 26 per cent of those who were convicted for child marriages. It was noted in the census report of 1931, that the very large increase in literacy among this group was not followed by any rise in the formal age of marriage. Since then literacy among the Kunbis has made still further progress — among the Kadwas from 217 to 319 and among the Lewas from 395 to 497 per mille — but there has been no corresponding improvement with regard to child marriages. The curious custom which prevailed among the Kadwas of ‘mass marriages’ in the whole caste — every nine, ten or eleven years all children from the age of one month being married on a single day fixed by the priests under the order of the ‘Mata’ (Goddess) — was a serious obstacle to reform. There were indications at the time of 1931 census, that the force of education and social legislation was breaking down this custom. It has now finally disappeared and this must be attributed in a large measure to Child Marriage Prevention Act. The abandonment of this custom is a material step in the social uplift of the community.

The other castes, which show convictions for child marriages quite disproportionate to their population, are the scheduled classes. These constituting 8 per cent of the population are responsible for about 19 per cent of the convictions and 26 per cent of the child marriages. These communities are backward in education. The

Vankar, the most numerous and advanced of the depressed classes, show a literacy of only 203 per mille and English literacy of only 5 per mille. Economic factors also exercise special weight with these poor communities. Custom imposes heavy expense on the occasion of marriage, and the economy of two or more marriages from the same house, largely offsets the penalty of law unsupported by social stigma.

The Kolis also, though to a less extent, come under this category. With 15 per cent of the population, they have 18 per cent of the convictions and 24 per cent of the child marriages. It is probable that this is due to the Thakardas, who constitute half of the community and are extremely backward both in education (literacy 70 per mille) and economic condition.

The other castes which were addicted to child marriages have responded much more readily to the reforming influence of legislation. This will be seen from the average percentage of child marriages in the first three years of each of the decades 1930-40 and 1940-50.

	Percentage of population	Percentage in		
		1st period	2nd period	1944-45
Brahmans	... 4.0	3.4	3.1	3.3
Kshatriyas	... 4.4	4.1	1.7	1.4
Vanias	... 3.3	1.6	0.4	0.3
Artisans	... 6.3	2.8	2.5	2.5
Muslims	... 7.5	2.3	1.8	1.8
Rabaris	... ...	6.3	3.0	0.9

Among some of these castes the average percentage of persons convicted has declined by almost fifty per cent; among Vanias from 1.6 to 0.4 and among Kshatriyas from 4.1 to 1.4. Even among the artisans, who formerly were addicted to child marriages, the percentage has declined. It is at least a suggestive fact that these communities are educationally the most advanced, the lowest literacy among them being 355 and the highest 816 per mille, as against the average of 229 per mille for the State. Among them, it would appear, that education and social legislation have so far modified such institutions as the custom of marriages in exchange between families, and of marriages within the 'gol' or sub-caste, that they no longer lead to early marriages.

187. SOCIAL EFFECTS — The effect of the legislation on the civil condition of the population is reflected in the 1941 census figures. The proportion of unmarried in child population, age 0-5, has risen from 97.3 in 1901 to 99.98 per cent in 1941. In the next

age group, 5–10, the proportion has risen from 89·7 to 99·3 per cent in the last forty years. In the age groups, 10–15 and 15–20, which used to be the normal ages of marriage in the old days, the percentage of unmarried has risen, among males from 73·0 to 96·2 and from 46·2 to 71·2 respectively, and among females from 47·7 to 86·2 and from 12·7 to 29·6 per cent respectively. Thus, the age of marriage has obviously risen on an average by about five years. Legislation has a great deal to do with this, though no doubt, the influence of social changes, the pressure of economic circumstances, and the leavening influence of education have also played an important part.

(ii) Hindu Divorce Act

188. HINDU DIVORCE ACT — The Hindu law does not allow divorce, except in communities in which it is permitted by custom. To remove this disability the Hindu Divorce Act was passed in 1931. It provides for divorce, judicial separation, separate residence, nullity of marriage and restitution of conjugal rights. The grounds on which relief can be sought are cruelty, drunkenness, desertion, adultery, impotency and incompatibility of temperament. Relief on these grounds is available to all Hindus. Persons belonging to castes, in which divorce is not permitted by custom, can obtain relief only by a decree of a court, whereas the others are only required to register the dissolution of their marriage.

Since 1931, 736 suits for relief under the Act have been instituted. Of these 631 were for divorce, 32 for judicial separation, 11 for separate residence, 6 for declaring the marriage null and void, and 56 for restitution of conjugal rights. The main grounds for relief were cruelty by husband, habitual drunkenness and desertion. During the last three years out of 156 cases, 37 were cases of cruelty and 86 of cruelty and desertion. There were only 10 cases in which drunkenness was a ground for relief and 22 cases of second marriage and 1 of adultery. There are only 31 cases in which the husband sought relief.

Persons belonging to castes in which divorce is not allowed by custom have been slow to take advantage of the law, specially designed for them. In these fifteen years only 58 suits were filed by such persons. In recent years, however, they have shown a greater willingness to seek relief under the law: the number of cases in the first three years was only 3 as against 21 in the last three years. It is a feature well worth mention that all these 21 cases were filed by either Brahmans or Vanias, educationally the two most advanced communities among the Hindus. This reluctance is due to the force of custom and tradition, and not to any difficulties in the law. Of the 10 cases decided during this period, all except one, have been decreed in favour of the plaintiff or compromised. In communities in which custom allows divorce, the law has provided a regular procedure and a record of the fact of divorce. These benefits are appreciated.

(iii) Hindu women's property legislation

189. HINDU WOMEN'S PROPERTY LEGISLATION — In 1933, the Hindu law was amended so as to widen the rights of Hindu women in matters of inheritance and rights to property. Under the amended law,

- (a) the widow of a co-parcener takes the place of her husband as a co-parcener in the joint family, that is, she becomes a joint owner of the family property with a right to ask for partition;
- (b) she becomes an absolute owner of property, which she acquires either by partition or inheritance, to the extent of property worth Rs. 12,000 and retains her limited interest in the surplus, if any;
- (c) she can inherit her husband's exclusive property along with her sons, obtaining a share equal to that of a son;
- (d) where a widow acquires a limited interest in property, that interest has been liberalised, by allowing her to alienate the property for educational and charitable purposes;
- (e) an unmarried daughter can claim a share in the family property equal to a fourth of a son's share, with a right to claim it separate;
- (f) a married but widowed daughter can claim maintenance from her father's family property under certain circumstances;
- (g) a widowed daughter-in-law has been given a place in the list of heirs, next to the mother of the deceased father-in-law;
- (h) sons of a predeceased daughter can claim inheritance with living daughters.

190. EFFECT ON HINDU SOCIETY — These reforms have improved the status and material position of women in Hindu families. Among the higher castes, these rights are generally conceded as in this part of India owing to the absence of purda and other causes, women's property rights have always been more extensive than elsewhere; but among the lower classes men are less willing to accept the change, and the women are not yet sufficiently conscious of their rights. During the year, 9 suits by widow co-parceners were instituted for partition of their shares in the joint property as against 5 in the preceding year. The effectiveness of the law, however, cannot be judged from these figures, for the very purpose of clearly defining rights in

law is to make litigation unnecessary. The law by securing the position of the widow is a potent factor in securing a just settlement. Moreover, in suits by reversioners to challenge alienations by widows, the possession of absolute interest in the property alienated is put forward as a defence.

(iv) The Hindu Monogamy Act, 1942

This law marks the culmination of the movement for reform of Hindu law in the State, and it is a measure of the advancement and enlightenment of public opinion that it was passed unanimously by the Dhara Sabha.

The law amends sec. 116 of the Code of Hindu law and makes a marriage of a husband during the life time of his wife an offence and the marriage illegal.

Since 1942, 11 complaints have been filed, of which 10 were during the year.

(v) Special Marriage Act

191. SPECIAL MARRIAGE ACT — The Special Marriage Act came into force in the State in 1908. In British India, till recently, the parties to an inter-marriage between persons of different communities under the Registration of Marriage Act, had to declare that they did not belong to any of the recognised religions. Such a declaration is not necessary under the Baroda Act. The Act thus offers a wider scope in the choice of a life partner to those who do not feel themselves bound by the forms of the religion in which they happen to be born, without compelling them to renounce that religion.

Customs and tradition have, however, restricted the exercise of this opportunity. During the 37 years the Act has been in operation, only 87 marriages were performed under it, and of these more than half were in the last five years. Moreover, the restriction of social customs and religious law of different communities have proved, as was anticipated, sufficiently strong to confine the action of this legislation, mainly to inter-marriages among different groups within a religious community. Of these 87 cases, 80 were cases of Hindu inter-caste marriages. There were no cases of Jains or Muslims marrying out of their communities.

(vi) The Muslim Women's Divorce Act, 1942

In case of women the Muslim law allows divorce on certain specific and clearly defined grounds such as cruelty, desertion, failure to maintain the wife or perform marital obligations, impotency, insanity, venereal disease or seven years imprisonment etc. But the wife's right to divorce her husband without his consent is governed by the

terms of contract made before or after marriage. The courts have, however, allowed divorce by judicial decree for reasons valid under Muslim law even without a specific contract. These rights have been clarified and defined under the Muslim Women's Divorce Act, 1942.

(vii) The Caste Tyranny Removal Act

192. THE CASTE TYRANNY REMOVAL ACT — In Gujarat numerous customs impose restrictions on the individual, which are detrimental to social progress. Such, for instance, are the customs which restrict marriage in certain castes to 'gols' which are circles within a caste or sub-caste; the customs which penalise foreign travel; refusal to incur heavy expenses on such formal ceremonials as caste dinners; or breaking a betrothal. To encourage enlightened and progressive persons to escape these limitations, the Caste Tyranny Removal Act was passed in 1933. It empowers the courts to punish by imprisonment upto six months or fine upto Rs. 1,000 or both, persons who penalise those who do not observe tyrannous customs such as indicated above.

The operation of the act shows once again the difficulties of social legislation when not sufficiently supported by public opinion. During its twelve years' operation, there have been only 80 cases. Nor do records show any growing tendency on the part of people to resort more freely to the courts for redress on this account: the average number of cases of the first three years of the Act was 11, whereas of the last three years it is only 4.

We have only to examine the results of the complaints filed to appreciate the difficulties that prevent a more ready resort to law for redress. Of these 80 cases, not a single case has resulted in conviction. People are reluctant to resort to it, because it embitters their relations with the leaders of their caste on whom they are largely dependent for the observance of social and religious forms of their society. Even when cases are instituted, the other members of the caste are unwilling to incur the odium of deposing against leaders. Complainants, therefore, are unable to prove even the fact of excommunication. Such check as this legislation imposes is due, it would appear, not to the penalties which the law imposes, but to the threat of being called upon to answer a charge in a court of law.

(viii) Social Disabilities Removal Act

193. SOCIAL DISABILITIES REMOVAL ACT — The steps taken by government, to remove the disabilities under which the Antyajas belonging to the scheduled castes labour, fall into two groups.

First, by education, economic assistance and co-operative movement, to raise the community to take its place of equality with the other sections of the people. These are detailed under the respective chapters.

Second, to punish those who deny the members of this community such elementary rights as the use of public wells, roads, buses etc. With this latter object formal legislative shape was given to the old proclamation by the enactment of the Social Disabilities Removal Act in 1939. To prevent any member of this class from exercising his elementary rights, is made punishable by a fine which may extend to Rs. 200 in the first instance. For enforcing the Act standing committees have been set up in all the districts and in talukas where necessary. These committees consist of revenue and other officers and non-officials. The suba is the president and at least two members of the scheduled classes are appointed on it. These committees are charged with the duty of investigating complaints and initiating action where necessary. It is too early yet to judge the effect of these measures. The committees received complaints, mostly relating to the use of wells, but in no case was there an occasion to institute criminal proceedings. The government have issued instructions to the committees to enforce the law more strictly.

(ix) Sanyas Diksha Restraint Act

194. **SANYAS DIKSHA RESTRAINT ACT, 1933** — The Act was mainly intended to remedy the grievance of lay Jains, about the initiation of children to sanyas, which, in their view, was fast becoming common and was detrimental to their interests as well as to the institution of sanyas itself. The Act declares void and of no effect, initiation of minors into Hindu and Jain orders of asceticism, and makes it punishable with imprisonment upto one year and a fine upto Rs. 500. No report of a breach of the Act has been received during these twelve years.

Economic Legislation

195. **ECONOMIC LEGISLATION** — The economic legislation in the State falls under (i) tenancy, (ii) debt and (iii) protection of backward classes, and comprise of the following:

- (i) The Rent Regulation Act, 1934;
- (ii) Ankadia Villages' Tenants Act, 1934;
- (iii) The Agriculturist Debt Regulation Act, 1935;
- (iv) The Debt Conciliation Act, 1936;
- (v) The Backward Classes Land Protection Act, 1938.

The working of these laws is reviewed below:

(i) The Rent Regulation Act

196. **THE RENT REGULATION ACT, 1934** — The purpose of this Act is to provide security of tenure on reasonable terms to the tenants of backward communities. In the first instance it was applied to the

Raniparaj people in the Vyara, Mangrol and Songadh talukas of the Navsari district. But in 1936, it was extended to the Raniparaj people of Sankheda and to thirty villages of Tilakwada in the Baroda district.

The economic condition of these people had been steadily deteriorating, their holdings had passed into the hands of money-lenders, and they had become mere tenants at will, cultivating the lands of which they were once owners. Cases of rack renting and arbitrary evictions were frequent. Under these circumstances, it was found desirable to legislate to ensure reasonable rents and security of tenure for the tenants.

Under the Act

- (i) the naib suba is authorised to fix a fair rent on application of a tenant, but under no circumstance can the rent exceed 5 times the assessment;
- (ii) the tenant cannot be ejected so long as he pays his rent in time and does not commit an act of waste in the land;
- (iii) if the proprietor wants the land for cultivating it himself, possession can be restored on condition that he will not lease it to some one else within three years.

Relief under the Act can be claimed only by a tenant, who had been cultivating a holding continuously for five years preceding his application.

The naib subas conduct all cases under the Act but now there is an appeal to the civil courts, which till recently, had been deprived of their jurisdiction in cases in which relief could be obtained under the Act. Neither parties however, can engage pleaders for these cases.

The following statement shows the relief obtained by the tenants and landlords :—

Type of cases	1944-45	1943-44	1942-43	1941-42	1940-41
BY TENANTS					
Ejection of tenants ...	244	91	121	68	125
Modification of rent ...	493	84	244	748	78
Fixing of rent ...	539	436	89	132	276
Total ...	1,276	611	454	948	479
BY LANDLORDS					
Restoration of possession of land.	71	237	96	126	30
Suits for recovery of arrears of rent.	162	120	301	248	477
Total ...	233	357	397	374	507

The statement shows that in the last five years the tenants had recourse to law in 3,768 cases. The most common applications were for fixation or modification of rent, a fact which clearly shows how effective and useful the legislation has been. On the other hand landlords instituted 1,868 cases, mostly for the recovery of arrears of rent.

The effects of the legislation have been beneficial, and both tenants and landlords have recourse to it. The Raniparaj tenant has been assured a fair rent and security of tenure. Besides this, he has been saved from a number of exactions of which he was formerly a victim, such as cash payments or payment of assessment, in addition to the rent of half the produce, and from practices such as impounding the produce of the field to ensure the rent. Another advantage, both to the tenant and the landlord, has been that civil suits for arrears of rent have ceased; the tenant has been saved the cost of litigation, and the landlord the lengthy procedure of civil courts.

The provision of the Act, imposing a maximum limit of five times the assessment on the rent, has induced landlords to compose their differences without recourse to law. The naib subas in most cases are able to settle rents by agreement between the parties, a procedure which ensures harmony. It is largely due to this, that relations between the parties have steadily improved since the introduction of the Act. This improvement is reflected in the average number of cases filed during the last 3 years compared to the average for the first 3 years of the Act, 1934-37. Suits for ejectment have fallen from 350 to 152, for fixing of rent from 976 to 350, for recovery of arrears from 900 to 161.

(ii) Ankadia Villages' Tenants Act

197. ANKADIA VILLAGES' TENANTS ACT, 1934—In the 33 ankadia villages of the State the government demand is assessed in a lump on the village as whole and recovered from the ankadedars, the proprietors of the village. Till recently, the government did not interfere in the internal management and left the proprietors free to settle their relations with their tenants who cultivated their lands. Excessive rents, arbitrary ejectments and levy of taxes and imposts, however, threatened to disturb the relations between the two, till government intervened and by the Ankadia Villages' Tenants Act regulated the relations between them.

The Act secures to the tenant

- (i) *security of tenure* : The rights of tenancy are declared heritable and the tenant cannot be ejected from his land, except when he fails to pay rent for two years continuously, commits an act of waste in the land,

denies the title of the ankadedar, alienates the tenancy or sublets the land without permission of the ankadedar.

- (ii) *fair rent* : The naib suba is authorised on application from a tenant to fix a fair rent and the period for which it should continue.
- (iii) *safeguard against arbitrary imposts* : The levy of any tax, cess or other impost not connected with the land is declared illegal.

The Act thus secures to the tenants security of tenure, inheritance of the tenancy, fair rents and safeguard against arbitrary imposts. To the ankadedars it gives quick and easy remedy for the realisation of arrears of rent and for restoration of possession of their lands but no civil suit can be filed in matters which are entrusted under the Act to the naib suba.

The naib suba conducts all cases under the Act. An appeal lies to the sar suba.

The following statement gives information about the applications under the Act :—

	1944-45	1943-44	1942-43	1937-38	1936-37
FROM TENANTS					
Restoration of possession of land.		...	1	14	62
Fixation of rent	...				12
Total	...			14	74
FROM ANKADEDARS					
Restoration of possession of land.		12			
Fixation of rent			48
Recovery of arrears	...	13	13	25	24
Total	...	25	22	30	77

There has been a marked decrease in the number of cases, from 151 in 1936-37 to 26 in the year under report. Since 1937-38 there has not been a single application for fixing rents either from the tenants or the ankadedars; an indication that the legislation had the desired effect and the relations between tenants and ankadedars are now established on reasonable and cordial basis.

(iii) The Agriculturist Debt Regulation Act

198. THE AGRICULTURIST DEBT REGULATION ACT, 1935 — The legislation was enacted to give relief to the smaller agriculturists, whose real burden from debt had become intolerable, on account of the serious fall in prices. It was intended to be a purely temporary measure: with the return to normal level in prices, it was hoped, the necessity for interference with the ordinary credit machinery would cease to exist.

It empowers the courts

- (a) to examine the history of the debt, reopen transactions and fix on equitable grounds the amount that should be paid; and
- (b) to decree repayment in easy instalments.

But relief under the Act is available to the smaller agriculturists only: to those whose income is less than Rs. 750, provided that, at least two-thirds of the income is derived from agriculture.

The Act has been freely availed of by agriculturists, as will be seen from the following statement:—

(Amount in lakhs of rupees)

	1944-45	1943-44	1942-43	Average of 1942-45	Average of 1937-40
Cases disposed of ...	3,212	3,641	4,205	3,686	5,900
Amount involved ...	14.2	15.9	12.0	14	13.12
Cases in which reduction in debt ordered.	194	275	376	282	550
Amount of reduction ...	0.16	0.18	0.24	0.19	3.8
Cases in which reduction in interest ordered.	195	216	233	215	460
Amount of reduction ...	0.08	0.07	0.62	0.26	1.7
Cases in which payment by instalments allowed.	499	364	403	422	470
Cases compromised ...	1,036	1,468	1,544	1,349	2,500
Cases otherwise disposed.	1,288	1,318	1,569	1,392	2,040
Court fees refunded.	0.55	0.63	0.73	0.64	0.86

The total number of cases filed during the preceding 3 years was 11,058 and their total value about 42 lakhs. Of these, nearly 37 per cent were compromised. Reduction in debt was effected in 8 per

cent and of interest in 6 per cent of cases. Instalments were allowed in 12 per cent cases and the remaining 37 per cent cases were disposed of otherwise.

The benefit of the Act is almost equally taken by all classes of the people. The backward classes like the Kolis and Thakardas have begun to appreciate the possibilities of this legislation, as the following statement will show:—

Community	Percentage of people of the community receiving relief to the total		Percentage of khatedars of the community to the total
	1944-45	1940-41	
Patidar	26.5	30.8	34.9
Koli	4.5	2.4	9.1
Thakarda	12.5	5.2	7.4
Baria	12.0	...	...
Musalmans	4.0	5.2	5.6
Rajput	7.0	6.2	3.7
Dhed	3.0	3.2	...
Brahmin	1.5	1.8	8.1
Vania	1.0	0.6	5.5
Rest	28.0	44.6	21.7

(iv) The Debt Conciliation Act

199. THE DEBT CONCILIATION ACT, 1936 — The primary object of this legislation is to reduce the burden of agricultural indebtedness through conciliation. The Act was applied at first to the Sankheda, Sinor and Karjan talukas of the Baroda district and the Mahuva taluka in Navsari. As a result of experience it was extended to other talukas. In 1941, the government ordered that it should be extended to all areas covered by the operations of land mortgage banks. It is now in force in 22 talukas.

This Act is applicable only to agriculturists whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 1,500 — the limit was raised from Rs. 750 in 1939 — and whose income from agriculture is not less than two-thirds his total income. The debt for which conciliation is sought should not be less than Rs. 100 or more than Rs. 25,000.

The experience of the working of the Act soon indicated that, one of the reasons why people were not coming forward to take advantage of the conciliation boards was their inability to get ready

cash in settlement of their debts. The boards were, therefore, directed to give clear alternatives, (i) for lump sum settlements within not less than three months to enable the debtor to get his loan sanctioned from land mortgage banks, or (ii) for payment by instalments with a fixed rate of interest. Further, to link up closely the work of the debt conciliation boards and the land mortgage banks, directors representing the banks serve on the boards, wherever possible. The naib subas preside.

The conciliation boards dealt, during the year, with 64 cases in which the aggregate claim was for Rs. 1.10 lakhs. Conciliation was effected in 26 cases in which the claims amounted to Rs. 0.43 lakh, for Rs. 0.28 lakh or 65 per cent of the demand.

The number of applications and the amount of the debt involved are meagre when compared to the magnitude of rural indebtedness. Moreover, in spite of the extension in the area and the scope of the Act and the facilities offered by its link with land mortgage banks, the number of persons who have taken advantage of the Act has been decreasing progressively: the number of applications during each year since 1940-41 was 333, 271, 148, 173 and 64. During the last 4 years, there has been a wide spread movement to sell land and settle debts, as indicated by the increase in the number of documents registered; yet debtors have not been tempted to seek the assistance of the conciliation boards.

(v) Backward Classes Land Protection Act

200. BACKWARD CLASSES LAND PROTECTION ACT, 1938 — The Raniparaj and other backward classes, because of their poverty and ignorance, easily fall into debt and were being steadily ousted from their lands by money lenders. Statistics showed that in the Sankheda and Tilakwada talukas, during the quinquennium 1930-35, 14 per cent of their lands had passed out of their hands and the deterioration was progressive. The same state of things prevailed in the Navsari district. Such alienation, if it had been allowed to continue, would ultimately have turned these people into a landless class and would have defeated the measures the government is taking for their uplift. The object of the Act is to prevent this.

The Act prohibits the alienation of lands of backward classes without permission except on one year's lease. The naib suba is empowered to give permission, provided the land is to be alienated to a person belonging to a backward community. Land which has been alienated against rules is restored by the naib suba.

The Act, by preventing alienation, has curtailed the credit of their proprietors. Therefore, along with this legislation for their protection, co-operative societies have been organised to finance them,

and in order to facilitate lending, co-operative societies, agricultural banks and land mortgage banks have been allowed to accept the Rani-paraj lands in mortgage without the consent of naib subas. But lands so mortgaged to co-operative institutions cannot be alienated except on one year's lease.

The Act has been applied to the Songadh, Vyara, Mahuva and Mangrol talukas of the Navsari district, and the Sankheda, Tilakwada, Dabhoi and Waghodia talukas of the Baroda district. During the year 49 cases were received in the Baroda district and 41 in Navsari. Only in 37 cases was transfer of land allowed. The average number of cases received is 110 per year.

CHAPTER XVI

AGRICULTURE

201. ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT — The activities of the department consist of:—

- A. Research, which includes :—
plant breeding and pathology,
agricultural entomology, and
agricultural chemistry.
- B. Agriculture, including:—
farms and experiments,
propaganda and education,
schemes, and
seed supply organisation.
- C. Soil conservation.
- D. Animal husbandry and veterinary relief.
- E. Poultry development.
- F. Horticulture.
- G. Agricultural engineering.
- H. Marketing.

A. Research

202. PLANT BREEDING AND PATHOLOGY —

(a) *Cotton root rot* : It was estimated in 1932, when the scheme for research into cotton root rot was taken up, that the total value of cotton crop in the State was Rs. 200 lakhs, and the loss caused by this disease Rs. 25 lakhs. In the whole of Gujarat the loss was estimated at Rs. 75 lakhs.

Investigations now extending over 13 years, indicate that while it may be possible to reduce its virulence by cultural operations during summer, the control of the disease lies, primarily, in the evolution of a

type of cotton possessing high resisting power against root rot and high economic characters. After trials with almost all the important types, Karkhadi was found to be the only cotton which substantially resisted the disease. The present efforts are, therefore, directed to evolving a Karkhadi strain with very high resistance and to test the effects of different kinds of lay out and cultural technique on the original resisting qualities. These experiments are carried on with the Karkhadi district selections and the Rozi type. The next stage will be to improve by hybridisation the quality of the staple, for the spinning performance of Karkhadi is only 10 against 24 of Broach 9.

(b) *Pathological research on other crops*: Investigations into diseases affecting other crops were also carried out. The system of taking crops on raised beds was found effective against culm decay of turmeric. Variation in manure did not affect the disease though super phosphate was most effective in increasing the yield. Experiments showed that smut on juwar can be controlled by the simple process of soaking the seeds in water and drying them in shade before sowing.

(c) *Crop research*: Plant breeding was conducted at seven main stations : Baroda, Dabhoi, Amreli, Jagudan, Vyara, Vesma and Deodarda. Experiments were conducted with til, ground nut, bajri, paddy, pulses and cotton, all concerned with the improvement of the existing types.

203. ENTOMOLOGY — The means of exterminating crop pests such as semi-loopers on cotton and field rats were studied in several places and effective measures were taken to destroy them. The habits of the jasside, which sporadically attacks paddy, were investigated. Ammonia sulphate was found an effective remedy against it. The problems raised by grain storage in bulk and effective means of countering rats and pests are being studied.

204. AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY — The agricultural chemist investigated:-

- (i) the soluble salt contents in the soil of the Harij dry farm;
- (ii) the nutrients absorbed by cotton plants in different kinds of soils;
- (iii) effects of manuring on the uptake of nutrients by tobacco;
- (iv) effect of manuring on the development of ginger rhizomes, and
- (v) the soils of the various state farms.

B. Agriculture

205. EXPERIMENTAL FARMS — Separate farms have been established for each of the distinctive agricultural tracts of the State. These experiment with crops and processes of agriculture and discover those best suited to the soil, the climate and conditions in the area, and help to provide pedigree seeds, modern implements and manure. There are ten such farms in the State.

Baroda farm : The central farm is at Baroda. It has an area of 178 bighas of sandy loam known as gorat. Cultural, varietal and manurial experiments were carried out with the crops of the district, such as cotton, bajri, wheat, tobacco, til, onions and ground nuts. The horticultural section experimented with new and improved varieties of lemons, bananas, pomegranates etc. In the fruit preservation laboratory, fruit canning, bottling of juices, preparation of jams and jellies are taught. Attached to the farm is Sheth Dosabhai Magankal Agricultural Institute, which offers courses in different subjects of agriculture.

The farm supplied 4,100 lbs. of B. 9 nucleus seeds, 6,060 lbs. of wheat seed and 690 lbs. of T. 21 paddy and other seeds.

Dabhoi farm : It has an area of 122 bighas of medium black, black cotton, gorat and kyari lands. The farm serves as the centre of production of pedigree seeds of Vijaya cotton, which is found to be the type best suited to this tract. Of this seed, 3,487 lbs. were supplied during the year. Experiments with open field paddy are also conducted here in co-operation with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Special problems connected with the irrigation of black cotton soils and the utilisation of Wadhwana tank water are also being studied. The farm has a mixed farming complement.

In the Navsari district there are three farms: the Vyara farm for the sugarcane area of Gandevi, the Vesma farm which serves the cotton interests of the district, and the Khergam farm.

Vyara farm : The area of this farm is about 47 bighas of black kyari soil. Its principal function is to experiment with different types of sugarcane and supply sets of improved cane to cultivators. The cane investigation is conducted in co-operation with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. On the various canes, C. O. 419, C. O. 475 are found to yield the best results — C. O. 475 yielded 12,033 lbs. and C. O. 419 lbs. 11,833 of gur against about 9,000 by P. O. J. 2,878 per acre.

Experimental work with paddy, which rotates with cane, gram and wheat, has also been taken up and 49 types were under observation. It has been found that in early coarse types T. 21, in early fine types R. 3, and in late fine types Z. 31 are best suited.

The farm also supplied 26,455 lbs. of paddy seeds and 29,235 sets of cane for cane extension in Umra and Gandevi.

Vesna farm : The area of the farm is 106 bighas representing the black cotton soil of the Navsari district. Its primary function is to evolve improved types of cotton and to supply nucleus seeds for the extension of cultivation of such type. The Suyog, which has now replaced the 1027 A. L. F. as the standard type, is like the 1027 A. L. F. a product evolved at this farm.

Cultural and manurial experiments with other types of cotton, ground-nut, juwar and wheat were also carried out. Frost seriously affected the yield.

Jagudan farm : The area of the farm is 88 bighas representing the sandy alluvial soil of the tract. The farm is associated with Dholerras cotton improvement scheme of the Indian Central Cotton Committee and conducts experiments with various types of cotton. In the cotton trials B 1, K 72, K 80 and K 61 have all yielded better than Wagotor which is at present the standard type for the district. B 21 seems to be the best with its fine staple and good ginning. It gave 216 lbs. of seed cotton per bigha with a ginning percentage of 36.9 as against 183 lbs. and a ginning percentage of 36.2 of Wagotor.

The farm is also the centre of improvement work on pulses and millets. The following types have been found most successful and are now recommended to the cultivators : Malwan juwar, Jagudani bajri, Cawnpore 13 wheat. Oats have given an unexpectedly high yield of 39,352 lbs. per bigha.

Attached to the farm is Sheth Bhogilal Rajaram Institute which offers long and short term courses in agriculture.

The farm produced 2.48 lakhs lbs. of compost manure.

Amreli farm : It has an area of 100 bighas of medium black soil of the tract. The Dholerras cotton scheme is in operation at this farm also. Experiments and field trials have established S. 31 selection known as 'Pratap', to be the most suitable type for the district and it is being selected to be the standard type. Crop tests were also laid out for ground-nut, juwar, bajri, wheat and sugarcane. Trials of urine earth and compost manures were continued and 1,53,000 lbs. of compost and urine earth produced and 3,764 lbs. of A. H. 32 ground-nut, 1,700 lbs. of C. 13 wheat and 55,000 sets of sugarcane were issued for seed purposes. There is a poultry section attached to the farm with 153 birds.

Harij farm : It covers 90 bighas of salt crusted soil. It is a large scale effort to see how far the salt impregnated soils of the western portions of the Mehsana district can be recovered for cultivation. The plot was divided into blocks by deep drains and bunds and the effect of rainfall on salt accumulations studied. Varietal experiments on cotton, millets and pulses were also conducted.

Kalyanpura farm : It has an area of 22 bighas of limy light soil. It serves the very useful purpose of developing good agriculture among the Waghers whose methods of farming are primitive in the extreme. The work during the season was mostly of an observational nature and dealt with various types of bajri, juwar, til, castors and wheat.

Deodarda farm : The farm has an area of 86 bighas of sandy alluvial soil. Primarily it is meant to serve the Thakarda boarding school to which it is attached but it also forms a station for experiments to develop drought resisting varieties. A feature of the farm is its sisal plantation.

Vijapur farm : It has an area of 75 bighas. This is a new station, opened during the year, for investigating problems connected with the Vijapur tube well irrigation scheme. Its lay out has not been completed and only exploratory tests were taken.

206. PROPAGANDA — The crux of the problem in agriculture is to link the work of the experimental farms with the villages, to make the agriculturist adopt the varieties, methods of farming and collection of manure etc., which after numerous experiments and field trials have been found to be the best suited to the tract. A solution of this problem is attempted on a comprehensive plan which includes, (i) intensive work units, (ii) agricultural education, (iii) tours and exhibitions and (iv) rural reconstruction centres.

(i) *Intensive work units* : This is the most important and wide spread section of agricultural propaganda. Areas selected for intensive work are divided into units of about twenty villages and each unit again divided into three or four sub-units. A unit is under an overseer, and a sub-unit under a kamgar assisted by fieldsmen, all trained on government farms. The kaengars carry out selected experiments in fields of agriculturists as an object lesson to the villagers, besides distributing improved seeds and implements and showing improved methods of collecting manure. In this work, they are assisted more and more by the better farming societies, which have been established in the villages of these units. On this plan, there were 19 units serving 393 villages of all the districts. The following figures indicate the good work these units did during the year :—

	Baroda district	Navsari district	Mehsana district	Amreli district	Total
Crop trials on agriculturists' farms.	251	359	280	385	1,275
Compost collected in thousand of lbs.	585	2,920	3,165	9,570	16,240

In the areas outside the intensive zones, graduate assistants tour with itinerant carts according to settled programmes. These too, teach the cultivators the best methods of collecting and preserving manure and distribute improved seeds and implements at concession price. During the year, 33 itineries were completed reaching 586 villages. Over 1,50,000 people attended lantern lectures and cart exhibitions and 855 implements and 92,000 lbs. of seeds were sold.

(ii) *Agricultural education*: Another important means of disseminating knowledge among the rural population is to train young agriculturists at government farms, so that they may go back to their lands with greater experience and knowledge and become more efficient farmers.

Courses in agriculture are given at the farms at Baroda, Jagudan and Amreli. The Baroda farm has a long course extending over a year and several short courses of six to twelve weeks, giving instruction in practical farming, and special subjects such as tobacco production and curing, poultry rearing, horticulture, oil engine and tractor, dairy and live stock. One hundred students are taken up at a time. At Jagudan and Amreli farms, similar one year and short courses are being conducted. All students receive stipends while they are on the farms. The candidates that go back from year to year to their villages after training, help to improve the standard of cultivation in the neighbourhood.

(iii) *Tours and exhibitions*: The third means of propaganda is conducted tours, agricultural shows, exhibitions and demonstrations. During the year, leading agriculturists, interested in agricultural progress and research, were taken to the institutions of the department at government expense.

207. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION CENTRES — A rural reconstruction centre is an efficient agency for spreading agricultural knowledge, but it is not merely that. Its aim is to develop in the people living in villages, a desire for a higher standard of living "the will to live better", and to bring into existence in the area enthusiastic workers with qualities of leadership, who can eventually take over, maintain and develop the work of the centre. This object is achieved by establishing in every village of the centre a co-operative society, whose aim is to effect improvement in all aspects of rural life and whose functions comprise all objects of utility to the village. When such societies have been established in all the villages, a union will be formed which will be entrusted with the task of continuing the work of the centre.

(a) *Kosamba centre*: The Kosamba centre was established in 1930. Its activities both at the centre and in villages selected for the purpose were directed towards subsidiary occupations like poultry,

kitchen and flower gardening, holding summer school for cottage industries, scouting, sanitation and cottage industries like spinning, weaving, carding, tape-making etc.

The summary given below of the activities of the centre indicates the many sidedness of the work done by the centre :—

- (i) Agriculture : 119 tests were carried out on farmers' fields with different types of cotton and juwar, and 803 bighas in 7 villages were ploughed with government tractors. The centre supplied more than 10,000 lbs. of improved paddy, and wheat seeds, and 39,400 lbs. of ground-nut cake.
- (ii) Improvement of cattle : The stud bull served 21 cows.
- (iii) Poultry : 2,571 Rhode Island Reds and 12,500 eggs were graded.
- (iv) Kitchen gardens : Practically every cultivator has a kitchen and fruit garden. 783 kitchen gardens were supplied with vegetable seeds.
- (v) Cottage industries : 3,000 yards of khadi and 12,000 yards of bed tape were made by 125 families and 81 women were trained in the tailoring class.
- (vi) Education : Four schools were opened. Two agricultural bias schools have been established.
- (vii) Sanitation and medical relief : The health unit of 24 villages continued to work. 7 septic tanks, 10 soakage pits and a number of windows, doors and bathrooms were constructed. Government gave a subsidy of Rs. 2,467 for these improvements.
- (viii) Co-operation : Thrift societies collected Rs. 1,837 as savings. The membership of the taluka development association increased from 534 to 607.

While these figures are fairly impressive it is the steady change in the outlook of these villages which is a matter of real satisfaction.

(b) *Karjan and Vankal centres* : Working on lines similar to those of Kosamba, are the two new centres of Karjan and Vankal. The Karjan centre was started in 1939. It concentrated its work in the surrounding 15 villages and it is largely through it that the expansion of the new Vijaya cotton is taking place in the Karjan taluka. The Karjan and the Karvan cotton sale societies were organised by the centre. The former has grown into a strong organisation with branches at Sadhli and Palej. It handled 3,883 bhars of cotton and obtained an average price of Rs. 252 per bhar for its sales. Similar societies for other centres are also being organised.

The Vankal centre was established only two years ago for the benefit of the very backward areas of the Mangrol taluka. It has made a good beginning and has established contact with 23 villages.

208. DEODARDA AND THE DABHOI SCHOOLS: Similar in aims to the reconstruction centres are the Thakarda boarding school at Deodarda, near Patan and the Dabhoi agricultural school meant for the backward classes, both financed from the Diamond Jubilee Trust.

The schools aim primarily at three things, viz:-

- (i) to teach good agriculture,
- (ii) to instil among the boys 'the will to live better', and
- (iii) to train up leaders,

so that, when the boys go back to their villages, they may make good cultivators and good members of their community. In this way, the school will become the centre of rural reconstruction among the Thakardas and the backward classes of the Mehsana and the Baroda districts.

Both the schools have extensive farms attached to them. The accommodation at both Deodarda and at Dabhoi is for 100 boys. In the year under report, however, the number of boys was 24 and 48 respectively. Education is partly literary and partly manual, manual education consisting of agriculture, poultry keeping and cottage industries. All students receive stipends while they are in the school.

209. EFFECTS OF PROPAGANDA — The effects of this propaganda are indicated by the increase in the use of modern implements, fertilizers, improved seeds and manure during the last 10 years. The use of fertilizers has increased from 120 thousand to 6,770 thousand pounds, the manure made by agriculturists from 620 thousand to 16,200 thousand pounds and the use of pedigree seeds from 460 thousand to 5,000 thousand pounds.

As indicated by these figures of purchases from the department, the use of pedigree seeds has increased 11 times, of fertilizers 60 times and the making of urine earth and compost manure has trebled.

Schemes

210. ASSISTED SCHEMES — The schemes worked in co-operation with the Indian Central Cotton Committee were all concerned with the development of long staple cotton of superior qualities. The farms at Dabhoi, Vesma, Jagudan and Amreli serve as centres for the production of pedigree seeds and the extension of the improved breeds. When a supply of seed of known purity has been built up sufficient to sow the entire area under cotton, the cultivation of any other than the standard cotton is prohibited under the Cotton Control Act.

Four such extension schemes were in operation during the year :

- (i) Vijaya scheme to replace B. D. 8 in the black cotton soil areas of the Baroda district;
- (ii) B. 9 scheme for the Savli and Waghodia talukas of the Baroda district;
- (iii) Suyog scheme to replace 1027 A. L. F. in the Navsari district;
- (iv) Wagotar scheme to replace Wagad 8 in the Mehsana district.

There are 5 schemes which are conducted with the financial assistance of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. These concern the improvement of crops and live stock.

(i) *Paddy improvement scheme* : It has been extended for another 2 years: the study of open field and kyari paddy is in progress at the Dabhoi farm.

(ii) *Pulse and millets improvement scheme* : The crops which are being studied are tuwar, math, juwar, kodra and bajri.

(iii) *Grass improvement scheme* : This is carried out at four sub-stations :

- (a) the manurial effects on grass flora are being studied at Bakrol;
- (b) experiments with the development of normal grass varieties on reclaimed saline lands are being conducted at Harij;
- (c) the Hirpura station has been established to study the conservation of eroded soils of river ravines by controlled grazing;
- (d) fodder trees are being studied at Balasar.

(iv) *Live stock improvement scheme* : Two problems were being investigated,

- (a) the diseases affecting poultry, and
- (b) the comparative food value of ground-nut cake and cotton seed.

(v) *Scheme for the improvement of deshi fowl* : It was put into operation in July 1944 at the Baroda farm with 7 cocks and 32 hens, but the whole flock was wiped out by an epidemic of ranikhet in March 1945. A fresh start has been made.

211. STATE SCHEMES — Besides these there were important schemes undertaken by the State.

(i) *The Virginia tobacco expansion scheme* : Under this scheme centres were established where cultivators were subsidised to grow Virginia tobacco and barns were constructed to which they could bring their green leaf to cure. The area under the scheme at the government farms and the two centres of Bajwa and Bandhani now in operation in the Baroda district was 26 bighas and 42,927 lbs. of green leaf were produced giving 6,922 lbs. of cured leaf or 16.1 per cent.

The scheme has been continued to keep going the Virginia tobacco centres during the period when the high price of country tobacco and the heavy expense of curing have combined to make the cultivation of Virginia tobacco uneconomic.

212. SEED ORGANISATION — Once a new variety has been established as superior by experiments at government farms and a popular demand created by propaganda, the cultivator should be able to get the pure seed if the variety is to remain pure. To meet this need the department has built up a seed organisation. The seed farm supplies seed to a nucleus of growers who grow their seeds under close supervision for the farm depot. The farm depot distributes seeds to 'A' grade certified farmers, whose produce in its turn will pass out to unions of growers and hence, through the seed depots, to the ordinary cultivator. Such organisations have been built up for cotton 1027 A. L. F. and Suyog in Navsari, B. D. 8, Vijaya and B. 9 in Baroda, Wagad and Wagotar 8 in Mehsana, C. 520 in Amreli, for Pusa 4 and Pusa 52 wheats, A. H. 32 and A. H. 25 ground nuts, P. O. J. 2878 and C. O. 419 sugarcane, Jagudani bajri, paddy types T. 1 and T. 21, and Kolam 79 and Kolam 226.

The following figures show the expansion in the seed organisation:—

1935-36	4.6 lakhs lbs. issued.	Almost entirely purchased from Bombay?
1944-45	94.2 lakhs lbs. issued.	Entirely raised in the State.

C. Soil conservation

213. PREVENTION OF SOIL EROSION — To educate the people to the serious impoverishment of the soil caused by erosion and to discover the best method of checking it, the government have established two experimental and propaganda centres :

(i) *Dhari centre* : It deals mainly with the more common type of soil erosion, namely, sheet erosion of sloping cultivated lands, or of forests and over-grazed grazing lands. The work has now been in progress for 5 years with encouraging results. The many sided approach to the problem will be indicated by the following summary of the work done:—

There was a demand for bunding 20,000 bighas from 275 cultivators of 50 villages - 9,000 bighas were bunded. In contour trench system 18,000 feet of Bijapur type of trenches have been dug; for gully plugging 750 new bunds were erected and 300 fresh wood plugs put in; in the tree planting section 30,000 trees were planted of which 20,000 are well established; in the grass improvement scheme, 200 bighas were sown broadcast with eleven types of grass, deteriorated gauchers were improved by bunding, stirring the soil and sowing Samiar grass - the yield increasing from 613 lbs. to 728 lbs. per bigha.

(ii) *Hirpura Centre* : On the Sabarmati in the Mehsana district, deals primarily, with gully or kotar erosion on denuded sources of streams and along the banks of larger rivers. The work at Hirpura centre is divided into two sections:-

(a) *Bunding* — Vat bunding has been found the most effective. During the year, 2,125 bighas were vat banded, with bunds 12,960 feet long, through which extra drainage water is allowed to discharge at controlled points.

The steep banks of kotars and ravines have been sloped and sown with grass seeds.

(b) *Afforestation* — The denuded areas have been sown with seeds of babul, aval, aniar, gorad etc., and altogether 23,500 seedlings have been established.

The work was also taken up by the government farms and contour terracing effectively demonstrated at Amreli, Jagudan and Deodarda and pamphlets on the subject distributed. The increase in the number of applications for assistance for contour terracing shows that the cultivator everywhere is becoming aware of the evil and willing to take steps to prevent it.

D. Veterinary

214. VETERINARY RELIEF — Four dispensaries had to be closed temporarily for want of qualified veterinary surgeons, so that only 35 worked during the year. The number of cases treated was 66,433 against 64,301 in 1943-44. The daily average attendance per dispensary increased from 17.5 in the preceding year to 18.6 and the expenditure per case increased from Re. 0-11-2 to Rs. 1-1-0 during the year.

The number of reported cases of outbreaks of contagious disease was 474, as against 240 in the previous year. These were attended to by the veterinary surgeons, and 80,847 animals were protected from rinderpest and haemorrhagic septicæmia by vaccination or inoculation, as against 80,470 in 1943-44. During the year, 1,387 animals were castrated as against 1,955 animals in 1943-44, by means of Burdizzo castrator.

215. RESEARCH — Research laboratories did useful work on cattle and poultry diseases. Investigation into 20 different diseases was carried on and 1,624 pathological cases examined. The goat virus section produced 68,050 goat virus doses.

216. LIVE STOCK IMPROVEMENT — There were four schemes in operation for the improvement of live stock :—

- (i) Rabari colonisation scheme;
- (ii) Kankrej breeding scheme;
- (iii) the premium bull scheme;
- (iv) the sheep breeding scheme.

- (i) *The Rabari colonisation scheme* : The objects of the scheme are three :—
- (a) the controlled improvement of grass lands and live stock;
 - (b) the elimination of the conflict between the cultivators and the Rabaris due to the depradation of the cattle of the Rabaris, and
 - (c) the general uplift of the community.

The need of the Rabaris for pastures is met by establishing Rabari colonies on cultivable waste lands, on condition that, along with the raising of cattle, they will grow fodder crops, and secondly, by controlled improvement of grass. The scheme which was started in 1941 has expanded rapidly. There are 25 colonies with 433 families at work. The average income of the family increased from Rs. 303 in the previous year to Rs. 401.

- (ii) *The Kankrej breeding* : This scheme has been developed to supply pure bred Kankrej bull to be used for improving the village and Rabari cattle.
- (iii) *The premium bull scheme* : The total number of bulls of different breeds now in service for improving the breed in villages is 130, which during the year served 1,636 cows and buffaloes. The progeny of these bulls are noticeably superior to the local breed.
- (iv) *Sheep breeding* : A farm has been established at Patan to develop the Patanwali breed and improve the quality of wool. The area of the farm is 317 bighas and the strength of the flock 290 as against 154 in the preceding year. The average annual yield of wool was

31.66 ozs. as against 31 ozs. in the preceding year and the highest yield 58 ozs. The marketing organisation of the farm assisted the shepherds to get 25 per cent premium on their wool.

The wool laboratory which has now been taken over by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, examined 2,026 wool samples for study of different attributes.

217. MAKARPURA DAIRY — The strength of the herd during the year was 102 as against 123 in 1943-44. During the year, 1,00,509 lbs. of milk were produced as against 96,382 lbs. in the preceding year. The expenditure and receipts of the dairy were Rs. 39,024 and Rs. 31,178 respectively, as against Rs. 16,685 and Rs. 12,827 in 1943-44.

E. Poultry

218. POULTRY DEVELOPMENT :

- (i) *Government farm* : Poultry centres with flocks of pure bred Rhode Island Reds are established at the farms at Amreli, Dabhoi and Vyara, the rural reconstruction centre at Karjan and the Deodarda boarding school. There were thus eight centres including the three older centres of Makarpura, Baroda and Kosamba.
- (ii) *Subsidised farms* : Batches of young men are trained in poultry keeping and established as poultry farmers in their villages, which become centres of poultry development for the neighbourhood. These men are given scholarships during training and subsidies from the Diamond Jubilee Trust. There were 19 such centres and they sold between them 1,800 eggs for hatching and 2,33,000 eggs were graded.

Poultry development received a severe set back during the year, from an epidemic of ranikhet which took a heavy toll of fowls.

F. Horticulture

219. NURSERIES — Kodinar and Dhari hold possibilities of becoming important fruit growing centres in Kathiawar. The government, therefore, laid out a nursery plot at Dhari in 1938 intending it to become the centre of fruit growers' association, and announced several important concessions, such as, easy terms for securing land for orchards. The nursery is now fully established and local farmers are beginning to get interested.

Similarly, at Kodinar a small plot of 20 bighas was started in 1939 as a joint enterprise with the Kodinar Banking Union. They sold 7,200 plants during the year.

The Gandevi nursery has an area of about 37 bighas. It was established in 1939 to act as a nursery and an experimental station for fruit growing for Gandevi, which is one of the most important fruit growing centres in Gujarat.

The horticultural section of the Baroda farm also continued to do useful work in spreading banana and citrus plants in the district and giving courses in horticulture and fruit preservation.

As a result of the propaganda carried on by these centres progress in fruit farming in the Amreli, Baroda and Navsari districts was kept up. Tangello, Malta and Naval oranges, Italian lemons and grape fruits have been introduced and are doing well.

G. Agricultural engineering

220. ACTIVITIES — The main activities of the section were as follows:—

- (i) *Well sinking* : An extensive programme of well sinking, mostly in the Mehsana and the Amreli districts, has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 11.20 lakhs. During the year, 519 were completed and 407 were in progress.
- (ii) *Boring* : Of the 44 bores taken up, 36 were completed successfully. The increase in supply of water was 73 kos.
- (iii) *Well blasting* : The number of wells drilled and blasted was 105 yielding an increase of 171 kos of water.
- (iv) *Tractor ploughing* : In the Baroda and Navsari districts 1,891 bighas were ploughed and disced by tractors under contract.
- (v) *Education* : The oil engine class and the tractor class had 15 students during the year. In all 671 students have taken advantage of these classes.

H. Marketing

221. MARKETING OF COTTON — The scheme for better marketing of 1027 A. L. F. cotton and other standard cottons continued to operate in cooperation with the Indian Central Cotton Committee. Its object is to secure a price for the cotton commensurate with its quality as compared with mixed Surti and selection "A" of the Navsari district. The bales were graded and marked under the Agricultural Produce (grading and marking) Act. The purity of the bales is guaranteed by a large field staff which controls and supervises the growing of the cotton in the field, its ginning and baling.

There were 4 pooling centres at which 9 societies and 5 groups pooled their crops. The total number of bales thus graded was 4,884

as against 7,306 in the previous year. The average premium per candy on the total sales was Rs. 15 over the local types of cotton.

222. GRADING — Six ghee grading stations were operating during the year. The total quantity of ghee graded was 1,15,000 B. maunds valued at Rs. 152·9 lakhs as against 1,37,000 B. maunds in the previous year and 5,280 B. maunds valued at Rs. 2·75 lakhs 5 years ago.

At the egg-grading centre in the Navsari district 2,33,000 eggs valued at Rs. 27,000 were graded and agimarked. The grading has led to an increase in the return of 2 to 5 pies per egg.

223. EXPENDITURE — The total expenditure of the department during the year was Rs. 12·16 lakhs as against Rs. 9·35 lakhs in the preceding year. Besides this, for the schemes in operation with financial aid from the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research the State received from these Rs. 61,696 and Rs. 39,449 respectively. The Diamond Jubilee Trust also contributed for financing poultry, live stock and agriculture improvement schemes.

CHAPTER XVII

CO-OPERATION

224. FEATURES OF RECENT DEVELOPMENT — In the development of co-operation, the department continued to follow the policy of consolidation and of expansion of the movement to include "better produce, better sale and better living," so that the societies should become centres of village reconstruction. The main features of this development are :—

Firstly, the reconditioning of weak societies : A thorough inquiry is made into the financial condition of societies, which have failed to repay their loans to central banks. The debts of societies which are solvent and give hope of improvement are scaled down by conciliation, on condition that members meet their instalments regularly, and programmes of repayment are drawn up. On the other hand, societies in which reconstruction is not likely to be successful are taken into liquidation.

Secondly, the introduction of controlled credit system under which loans advanced are for agricultural operations and are limited to a proportion of the value of the produce, calculated according to fixed rates on the cultivated area. Repayment is assured by insisting on the sale of the produce through the society.

Thirdly, insistence on the quality of the movement in respect of future extension: New rural credit societies are only registered, when the need is clearly established and they have succeeded in enlisting the co-operation of disinterested workers.

Fourthly, extension of co-operation to non-credit work: The department devoted considerable attention to the extension of co-operation to various forms of non-credit work, so as to emphasise the primary idea of co-operation, namely thrift, and make the co-operative society the centre of village life, embracing all its activities. The large expansion of co-operative sale of cotton, paddy and vegetables, and the part played by the consumers' movement in the supply of grain and household requirements is a notable development of recent years.

The magnitude of the work done by co-operative societies in procuring and distributing food, cloth and other necessities of life can be judged from the fact that, during the year, 312 societies supplied

goods worth over Rs. 134 lakhs to 14 lakhs of people or almost half the population of the State, living in a thousand villages and towns.

Fifthly, education in co-operative methods and auditing: Trained secretaries for the societies and an efficient government audit are the two most important conditions for successful expansion of co-operative movement. The Central Co-operative Institute regularly holds classes at Baroda and taluka centres for training secretaries in principles of co-operation, rural economics and accounts, while government auditors are given a special course of instructions at Baroda and other centres of training like Gurdaspur.

225. GENERAL SURVEY — The total number of societies increased by 128 from 1,359 to 1,487, but of these 226 or 15 per cent were in liquidation. There were 1,261 societies working as against 1,171 in the preceding year. Of these 823 were credit societies—13 central, 645 agricultural and 178 non-agricultural. Of the 438 non-credit societies, 289 were agricultural and 149 non-agricultural.

Of the 645 agricultural primary credit societies working, 629 were classified and 185 or 29 per cent were placed in class A (thoroughly good), 194 or 30 per cent in class B (having defaulters and mistakes in account), 134 or 21.5 per cent in class C (not falling under class A, B and D), and 116 or 20.5 per cent in class D (bad and liable to be closed if they fail to improve within 2 years). There was no improvement in percentage of A and B class societies as compared to the previous year, but that of C declined from 25 to 21.3 per cent and that of D increased from 15 per cent to 18.6 per cent.

The total membership increased from 1.15 lakhs to 1.25 lakhs or by 8.6 per cent. The average membership per society was 84.1 as against 84.7 in the preceding year. It is estimated that the movement directly affects 19 per cent of the total population — the agricultural societies about 10 per cent of the village population and the non-agricultural about 45 per cent of the town population.

The financial position showed a proportionate improvement. The working capital increased from Rs. 160 lakhs to Rs. 199.5 lakhs or by 25 per cent. The share capital increased from Rs. 23.6 lakhs to Rs. 28.2 lakhs, the deposits from members from Rs. 60.0 lakhs to Rs. 72.9 lakhs. Loans and deposits from non-members increased from Rs. 46.5 lakhs to Rs. 66 lakhs, mainly because of the loans taken by the central banks from government to procure grain from cultivators. The reserve fund increased from Rs. 23.8 lakhs to Rs. 26.5 lakhs.

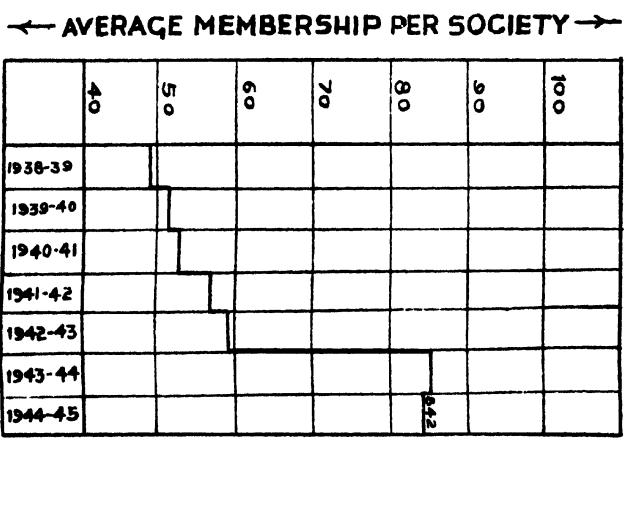
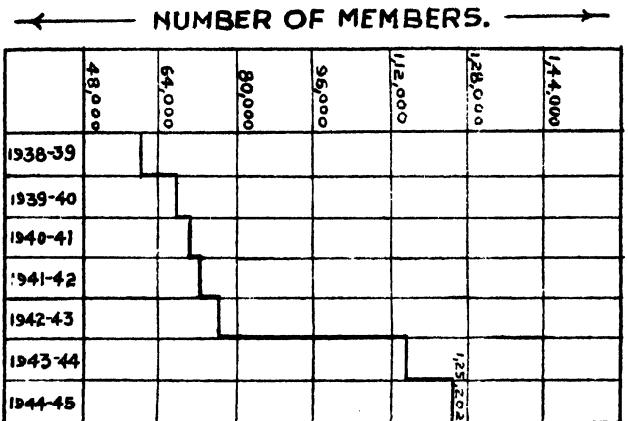
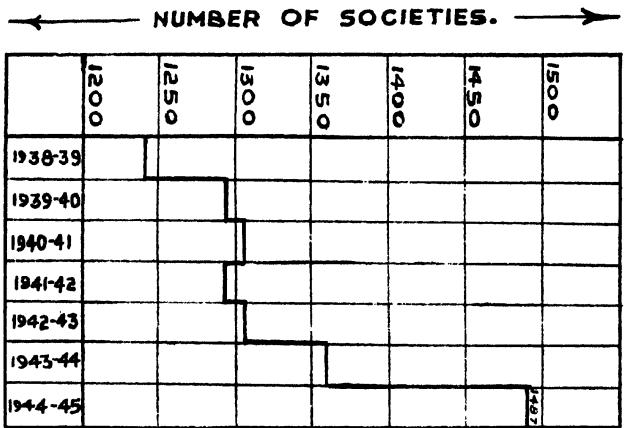
Owned capital formed 27.4 per cent of the working capital as against 30 per cent in the preceding year, loans and deposits 69.6 per cent as against 66.3 per cent and debentures 3.0 per cent.

Loans advanced, during the year, amounted to Rs. 74.38 lakhs as against Rs. 88.62 lakhs in the preceding year. The repayments

CHART SHOWING THE PROGRESS OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

IN THE BARODA STATE.

1938-39 TO 1944-45.



decreased from Rs. 92.46 lakhs to Rs. 70.05 lakhs – a result of the sharp fall in price of cotton.

The loans outstanding at the end of the year, increased from Rs. 69.9 lakhs to Rs. 74.2 lakhs, but the overdues increased by only Rs. 0.08 lakh to Rs. 7.97 lakhs.

The total value of the non credit work increased during the year from Rs. 55 lakhs to Rs. 133 lakhs, mainly on account of the civil supplies work undertaken by societies. The value of seeds and produce bought or sold on behalf of members by agricultural societies was Rs. 18.4 lakhs. Compared to the total average value of the produce of the State estimated at 18.60 lakhs this forms about one per cent.

226. LAND MORTGAGE BANKS — There are two land mortgage banks in the State. The government give the following concessions to these banks :—

- (1) The repayment of the principal and interest of the debentures is guaranteed;
- (2) land valuation officers are lent to the banks free of charge in the initial stages, and a grant is given towards the expenses of management.

The Baroda Land Mortgage Bank continued operations all over the Baroda district, except in the Petlad and Bhadran talukas. It had a membership of 1,821, a share capital of Rs. 1.75 lakhs and a working capital of Rs. 7.59 lakhs. Its reserves increased by Rs. 0.07 lakh and now forms 50 per cent of its share capital.

The bank has floated debentures of Rs. 6 lakhs to be redeemed after ten years for which it maintains a redemption fund. During the year Rs. 16,818 were credited to this fund which now amounts to Rs. 84,493.

The bank advanced fresh loans to 27 persons amounting to Rs. 0.64 lakh, as against Rs. 0.19 lakh to 12 persons in the preceding year. The total amount advanced, since the establishment of the bank in 1933, was Rs. 9.56 lakhs for liquidation of debts amounting to Rs. 11.31 lakhs, the debts having been scaled down by conciliation by Rs. 1.69 lakhs. All instalments falling due during the year were repaid, the total recoveries being Rs. 0.58 lakh. The outstanding loans increased from Rs. 4.98 lakhs to Rs. 5.04 lakhs. The net profit for the year was Rs. 14,375, as against Rs. 15,259 in the preceding year.

The Navsari Land Mortgage Bank continued its operations in all the talukas of the district. It had a membership of 486. Its share capital increased from Rs. 0.44 to Rs. 0.46 lakh and its working capital from Rs. 1.98 to Rs. 2.25 lakhs. Its reserves now forms 10 per cent of the share capital.

The bank has issued debentures of Rs. 6 lakhs to be redeemed after ten years for which it maintains a redemption fund. During the year Rs. 3,000 were credited to this fund which now amounts to Rs. 6,000.

The government have placed at the disposal of the bank Rs. 1 lakh for advancing loans to Raniparaj societies to enable their members to redeem their debts. So far, Rs. 68,100 have been taken by the bank. Loans amounting to Rs. 0.42 lakh were advanced to 29 members as against Rs. 0.29 lakh to 22 members during the preceding year. The total amount advanced, since the beginning of the bank in 1939, was Rs. 2.65 lakhs for liquidation of debts amounting to Rs. 3.01 lakhs, the debts having been scaled down by conciliation by Rs. 0.36 lakh. All instalments falling due during the year, except Rs. 232, were recovered, the total recoveries amounting to Rs. 12,470.

The government gave a grant of Rs. 865, equal to half the cost of management during the year, in addition to the services of a land valuation officer.

227. CENTRAL BANKS — As in the previous year, there were 8 central banks and banking unions working in the State. Besides this, one was in liquidation and another had not started work. These institutions finance only affiliated societies, but the Baroda, the Mehsana and the Petlad banks have been permitted to finance individuals so that they may be able to utilise their large accumulated surpluses in a profitable way. The membership of the banks decreased to 2,035 — of the affiliated societies from 827 to 821 and of individuals from 1,286 to 1,214.

The share capital of the banks increased, during the year, from Rs. 3.78 lakhs to Rs. 3.85 lakhs, the working capital from Rs. 21.64 to Rs. 34.02 lakhs, deposits from societies from Rs. 7.17 to Rs. 7.25 lakhs, other deposits from Rs. 7.39 to 8.58 lakhs. The reserve fund increased by Rs. 0.32 lakh to 3.61 lakhs, which almost equals the share capital. The marked increase in the working capital was due to the loan of Rs. 11 lakhs advanced by the government to the Mehsana Central Bank for procuring and distributing grains.

The banks advanced to societies Rs. 9.25 lakhs, which was Rs. 2 lakhs more than in the previous year. The loans to individuals amounted to Rs. 0.86 lakh. The total loans advanced were Rs. 10.11 lakhs as against Rs. 8.10 lakhs in the previous year.

The recovery of loans was adversely affected by the sharp fall in the price of cotton, which prevented societies from selling their cotton and the partial failure of other commercial crops. As a result of these factors, the recoveries fell from Rs. 12.15 lakhs to Rs. 9.22 lakhs.

The outstanding loans at the end of the year amounts to Rs. 9.38 lakhs as against Rs. 8.49 lakhs at the end of 1943-44. The overdues from societies formed 18.7 per cent of the outstanding loans,

The banks made a profit of Rs. 0.43 lakh as against Rs. 0.40 lakh in the previous year.

The important part played by the Mehsana bank and, to a less extent, by the banks of Kodinar and Damnagar, in the purchase and distribution of grain, sugar etc., in their districts is shown by the following figures :—

	Sugar (B. Maunds.)	Jaggery (B. Maunds.)	Grain	Value of goods purchased (in lakhs of rupees)	Value of goods Supplied
Mehsana bank	39,000	2,800	1,31,000	20.12	19.76
Damnagar „	2,733	320	2,153	1.57	1.46
Kodinar „	9,400	3,980	14,900	1.64	1.72

The Kodinar banking union purchased and sold its members' produce, cotton, groundnuts and jaggery, worth Rs. 1.01 lakhs. It assisted its members by providing them with pure seeds and fertilizers.

228. AGRICULTURAL BANKS — The agricultural banks are permitted to advance loans to individuals as well as societies. The four banks of Bhadran, Amreli, Vyara and Songadh continued their useful work and showed some slight progress during the year. Their membership increased from 1,337 to 1,479, of which 142 were societies. Their share capital was Rs. 1.89 lakhs as in the previous year, but the deposits increased from Rs. 6.81 to Rs. 7.33 lakhs and their working capital from Rs. 10.41 lakhs to Rs. 11.14 lakhs. Their reserves improved by Rs. 0.20 lakh and now amount to Rs. 3.85 lakhs.

The loans advanced during the year amounted to Rs. 0.38 lakh. Repayments, from both individuals and societies, fell from Rs. 1.03 lakhs in 1943-44 to Rs. 0.44 lakh, but the loans due decreased by Rs. 6,100 to Rs. 88,200.

The agricultural banks of Amreli, Vyara and Songadh purchased and distributed food grains worth Rs. 23.42 lakhs. The details of the work done are shown below :—

			B. Mds.	Rs. lakhs
Vyara bank	... Purchased from cultivators and supplied in the State.	grain	1,26,707	11.27
Amreli „	... Purchased and distributed in the district.	„	1,00,193	6.24
Bhadran „	... „	Sugar	6,393	1.27

229. SUPERVISING UNIONS — The Vyara and Mangrol supervising unions continued their activities. The Vyara union had 59 societies

affiliated to it with a membership of 2,552 and a working capital of Rs. 3.05 lakhs. It looks after and supervises the work of 23 women thrift societies. It enlisted the assistance of 14 societies in the work of civil supplies among the Raniparaj, who were supplied with grain, sugar etc., worth Rs. 0.61 lakh by these unions.

The Mangrol union, which works in the Raniparaj area, had 53 societies affiliated with a membership of 1,439 and a working capital of Rs. 2.63 lakhs.

230. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES—The number of agricultural societies working during the year was 934, 50 more than in the previous year, and 189 others or 18 per cent were under liquidation. The number of credit and thrift societies fell during the year from 760 to 737, but of non-credit societies increased from 124 to 197.

The membership rose from 41,058 to 47,735 and the average membership per society from 39.4 to 43.5.

The share capital increased from Rs. 4.84 lakhs to Rs. 6.56 lakhs. The working capital increased by Rs. 10.67 from Rs. 50.44 lakhs to Rs. 61.11 lakhs, because of the civil supply work undertaken by old societies as well as by those organised for that purpose. The deposits from members increased from Rs. 10.25 lakhs to Rs. 13.84 lakhs, of non-members from Rs. 10.49 lakhs to Rs. 12.80 lakhs, and loans and deposits from societies, banks and government from Rs. 9.61 lakhs to Rs. 11.57 lakhs.

Loans advanced during the year amounted to Rs. 40.08 lakhs as against Rs. 57.45 lakhs in the preceding year and the repayments Rs. 40.12 lakhs as against Rs. 61.55 lakhs. The fall in repayments was largely due to the cotton of the members remaining unsold. The outstanding loans, at the end of the year, were Rs. 30.98 lakhs, as against Rs. 30.91 lakhs at the end of 1943-44. The overdues, however decreased from Rs. 4.93 lakhs to Rs. 4.74 lakhs and formed 16.1 per cent of the outstanding loans.

231. PRIMARY CREDIT SOCIETIES—Co-operative credit has not succeeded in replacing to any appreciable extent the old sawkar system prevailing in villages. The necessary insistence on sufficient guarantees and on strictness and regularity in repayments do not make for the popularity of the movement. Although there were 807 societies during the year, the average membership per society was only 29.8 and the average working capital Rs. 4,600, and more than a fifth of the societies were under liquidation. However, the indirect effect in reducing the rate of interest and the severity of conditions and terms of loan have been beneficial. Moreover, every year shows a slight improvement in their work.

The membership of the 645 societies, which were working, was 24,284 as against 23,125 in the previous year. The share capital decreased from Rs. 0.48 lakh to Rs. 0.47 lakh, but the working capital increased by Rs. 3.1 lakhs to Rs. 37.06 lakhs, the deposits from Rs. 19.8 lakhs to Rs. 22.9 lakhs and the reserve fund from 13.35 lakhs to Rs. 13.6 lakhs.

Fresh loans advanced during the year, amounted to Rs. 11.32 lakhs as against Rs. 10.10 lakhs in the preceding year. Repayments however declined from Rs. 12.82 lakhs to Rs. 9.85 lakhs and consequently, outstanding loans due at the end of the year increased from Rs. 20.98 lakhs to Rs. 22.46 lakhs. The overdues, however, decreased from Rs. 4.86 lakhs to Rs. 4.68 lakhs and formed 20.8 per cent of the outstanding loans, as against 23.2 per cent in the preceding year.

The policy of rehabilitation and reconstruction of dormant and weak societies, followed since 1938, is having a beneficial effect on the co-operative movement. Since then, 191 societies have been reconstructed, of which 15 societies during the year and in all 28, have cleared their debts and 1,699 members have paid up their dues.

The instalments falling due, during the year, amounted to Rs. 2.53 lakhs of which Rs. 1.91 lakhs were recovered. These were due from 3,428 members.

Upto the end of the year, 182 societies had adopted the provident fund scheme and 3,044 members had taken its advantage. Their funds increased during the year from Rs. 1.39 to Rs. 1.55 lakhs or by 11.5 per cent. Some societies are taking advantage of co-operative insurance scheme and have permitted the payment of premium from the interest of the provident fund and compulsory savings.

The agricultural credit societies continued their non-credit activities of introducing better kinds of seeds, new varieties of crops and increased use of artificial manures. They supplied to their members 35,280 lbs. of seeds of pure "Vijay" and 1027 A. L. F. cotton, wheat and ground nut. Their principal non-credit activity, however was the part they played in the civil supply work. They purchased and distributed grains, sugar etc., worth Rs. 19.30 lakhs to more than 5 lakhs of people.

232. NON-CREDIT SOCIETIES — The following non-credit societies were working during the year:

Thrift societies : There were 91 agricultural thrift societies working, as against 100 in the preceding year, one was for men and 90 for women. The membership increased from 2,137 to 2,197, savings from Rs. 31,671 to 44,452 and the working capital from Rs. 35,219 to Rs. 48,402.

Production and sale societies: The number of these societies working increased from 50 to 60. Of these, 38 were for the sale of cotton, 7 for the production and sale of vegetables, one for sale of milk and 14 for the production and sale of other agricultural produce.

Cotton sale societies: There were 8 such societies working in the Navsari district and all sold their cotton through the marketing officer at Surat under the cotton marketing scheme. The Navsari Cotton Union assisted these societies by insuring their cotton and supervising their work. The partial failure of the cotton crop and the grow more food campaign had serious repercussions on the work of the cotton sale societies. The quantity of cotton sold by these societies was only 9,700 bhars (2,32,800 maunds) as against 20,800 bhars (4,99,200 maunds) in the preceding year. The total realisation from the sales of cotton seed and lint amounted to Rs. 4.06 lakhs as against Rs. 36.92 lakhs in 1943-44. Besides this, they advanced loans amounting to Rs. 2.74 lakhs to 1,888 members.

Rural stores (supply societies): There were 28 supply societies and 65 were organised during the year and 2 were closed. These had a membership of 7,380 and a working capital of Rs. 7.62 lakhs. Of these, 81 stores worked satisfactorily. They purchased rice, wheat, millets, sugar, kerosene etc., worth Rs. 40.97 lakhs and supplied it to the people of 501 villages with a population of about 5.14 lakhs.

Ginning and pressing societies: There were 5 ginning and pressing societies, one having been organised during the year. These were situated at Kosamba, Baben and Navsari in the Navsari district and at Samlaya and Karjan in the Baroda district. They had a membership of 1,873 and a share capital of Rs. 2.74 lakhs. Their factories, lands, buildings etc., were worth Rs. 3.85 lakhs.

Of these, only 3 worked during the year. They ginned 11,048 bhars of cotton as against 22,029 bhars in 1943-44, a reduction largely due to the "grow more food campaign" and the partial failure of cotton crop.

Their ginning rates were Rs. 8, 10 and 11 at Baben, Kosamba and Samalaya respectively and pressing rate Rs. 10.

Power pump societies: There were 7 power pump societies working. These irrigated 414 Bighas of 132 members.

The crops irrigated are mainly wheat, tobacco and onions. The irrigation charges vary from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per hour.

Fruit and vegetable growers societies: The fruit growers co-operative society at Dhari was organised to create an interest in horticulture among the cultivators and to assist them in laying out

fruit gardens. It has a membership of 339. It supplied different kinds of fruit plants and fruit seeds to its members.

Recently 7 more societies were formed for the growing and marketing of vegetables and fruits. These societies started their work only at the end of the year.

Development associations : Of the 25 development associations, 4 were under liquidation. Only 5 did useful work like attending to village sanitation and distribution of plants, vegetable seeds. The Vanisa-Pisad medical aid society, in the Palsana taluka, treated 14,145 patients of which 5,139 were treated free.

Primary education societies : There were 3 primary schools teaching upto the V standard organised on co-operative lines in the Raniparaj area of the Mangrol taluka. Elementary training in spinning and agriculture is given at these schools. There were 158 students on the roll.

233. NON-AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES — Two important features mark the development of the co-operation in urban areas : the extension of the movement to supply of consumers goods, food grain, sugar, kerosene and the like; and secondly, the organisation of societies among the factory workers, a field which is entirely new. Within 3 years of their establishment, the membership and the working capital of the 20 labour societies exceed half the combined membership and a third of the capital of all other non-agricultural societies. So far as the stores are concerned they have supplied goods worth Rs. 37 lakhs, although to most of them the work was new, efficient and trained secretaries were not available and many of them had been organised only recently.

The number of societies was 350, but of these 36 or 10 per cent were under liquidation. During the year, 33 co-operative stores and 16 housing societies were registered, so that the number of societies working was 314 against 274 in the previous year. Of these 178 were credit and thrift societies, 60 stores and 22 students' stores and 48 housing societies.

The membership increased from 69,608 to 73,125, the average membership per society being 209 as against 229 in the preceding year. The share capital increased from Rs. 12.8 to Rs. 15.6 lakhs, the working capital from Rs. 78.40 lakhs to Rs. 94.53 lakhs; members deposits increased by Rs. 10 lakhs from Rs. 59.08 lakhs and other deposits, loans etc. from Rs. 11.20 lakhs to Rs. 13.87 lakhs. The reserves amounted to Rs. 5.15 lakhs and formed 33 per cent of the share capital.

Loans advanced amounted to Rs. 23.07 lakhs as against Rs. 22.56 and repayments to Rs. 20.00 lakhs as against Rs. 17.86 lakhs in the

previous year; the outstanding loans increased from Rs. 23.53 lakhs to Rs. 26.58 lakhs; overdues decreased to Rs. 1.54 lakhs and formed only 5.8 per cent of the loans outstanding.

234. URBAN BANKS AND SOCIETIES — During the year, 17 urban banks or societies or a third as many as were then existing, were organised making a total of 69. Their membership was 45,870 as against 39,670 and their share capital Rs. 8.4 lakhs as against 6.8 lakhs in the preceding year. The working capital increased from Rs. 58 lakhs to Rs. 75 lakhs — Rs. 63 lakhs deposits and loans and Rs. 3.7 lakhs reserve fund. The amounts of loans both advanced and repaid, during the year, were about Rs. 7 lakhs more than in the previous year. The loans advanced amounted to Rs. 22.57 lakhs and the loans repaid to Rs. 19 lakhs.

235. LABOURER'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES — The prosperity of the factory labour, specially of the textile mill workers, who received substantial dearness allowance, offered an opportunity to push forward co-operative movement and its ideal of thrift among the workers. The government appointed a special officer for this purpose in 1943 whose efforts in this direction have met with considerable success.

So far, 20 societies with a membership of 23,270 have been organised. The share capital was Rs. 1.82 lakhs and the working capital Rs. 20.42 lakhs. Compulsory savings increased to Rs. 3.98 lakhs and dearness allowance savings to 16.41 lakhs, a total increase of Rs. 7 lakhs in savings.

According to the rules of these societies, 2 as. per rupee of dearness allowance and a compulsory savings contribution of as. 4 to Rs. 3 per month, varying according to the wages, is to be paid by each member. More than 50 per cent of the factory workers are members and 5.2 per cent of the dearness allowance received was contributed by them as savings. The average dearness allowance received by the members per head was Rs. 544 and the average contribution per member was Rs. 35.5 for the year.

236. OTHER SOCIETIES — Other societies working in urban areas were :

Government servants societies : There were 14 societies with a membership of 4,775 and a working capital of Rs. 5.18 lakhs, of which the share capital was Rs. 1.07 lakhs, deposits Rs. 3.73 lakhs and reserve and other funds Rs. 0.37 lakh. They advanced loans amounting to Rs. 2.89 lakhs during the year, while repayments amounted to Rs. 2.60 lakhs and the outstanding loans to Rs. 3.84 lakhs.

Weavers' societies : There were 51 weavers' societies with a membership of 859 and a working capital of Rs. 22,479 at the end of

the year. Loans advanced, during the year, amounted to Rs. 4,413, loans repaid to Rs. 4,221 and loans outstanding to Rs. 18,161.

Tanners' societies : There were 29 tanners' societies with a membership of 438 and a working capital of Rs. 17,297.

Loans advanced to 135 members amounted to Rs. 10,587, loans repaid to Rs. 7,397 and loans outstanding to Rs. 14,190.

Sweepers' societies : The main object of these societies is to relieve the sweepers from the hands of the usurious money-lenders and to inculcate thrift. There were 25 sweepers' societies with a membership of 1,399. During the year, Rs. 0.35 lakh were advanced to the members as against Rs. 0.29 lakh, and the outstanding loans at the end of the year were Rs. 0.63 lakh.

Thrift societies : The number of non-agricultural thrift societies working was 22, with a working capital of Rs. 27,270-3 for men and 19 for women. There were 758 members and their total savings was Rs. 25,376.

Urban stores : The Urban stores did useful work in supplying grain and necessities to their members and others. During the year, 31 new urban stores were registered making a total of 60 stores. But of these, only 44 with a membership of 16,977 and a share capital of Rs. 2.87 lakhs worked satisfactorily. They supplied grain worth Rs. 22.94 lakhs, sugar worth Rs. 5.25 lakhs and other materials worth Rs. 8.44 lakhs to about 3 lakhs of people.

Milk depots : There are two milk supply societies in the State, one in Baroda City and the other at Padra. They supplied 9.46 lakhs lbs. of milk worth Rs. 27,945 and made a profit of Rs. 3,364.

Students' societies : There were 22 students' societies with a membership of 1940. They supplied school books, stationery etc., worth Rs. 8,141 as against Rs. 6,535 in the previous year and made a profit of Rs. 733.

There were 4 students' societies working with the object of rendering financial assistance to students to prosecute higher studies. They had a membership of 1,066 and a share capital of Rs. 0.75 lakh. The loans advanced amounted to Rs. 10,061 to 28 students, loans repaid to Rs. 10,702, and outstanding loans of 85 students to Rs. 62,000.

237. CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE SOCIETY — The society accepted 103 life proposals for Rs. 1.02 lakhs, during the year. It had in force in all 1,025 policies for Rs. 6.67 lakhs at the end of the year. The premium received was Rs. 38,840 and claims paid amounted to Rs. 2,250 during the year. The ratio of the cost of management to premium received decreased from 41 per cent to 24.7 per cent.

238. HOUSING SOCIETIES — The number of housing societies working was 46, of which 14 were registered during the year. These had a membership of 1,164. Out of these, 34 were in the Baroda district, 5 in the Navsari district, 6 in the Mehsana district and 1 in the Amreli district. Of these, 4 have completed building houses, while 9 have obtained possession of land. Acquisition of suitable plots for the others is under consideration.

239. THE BARODA CO-OPERATIVE INSTITUTE — The institute has a membership of 1,038 of which 557 were societies and 481 individuals. Its total expenses during the year, amounted to Rs. 8,012. The government subsidises it to the extent of half the cost of management, and the Baroda district local board gives a grant of Rs. 1,000 per year.

The institute did useful propaganda work in the State. It conducted a class at Baroda for training secretaries of co-operative societies in the principles and practice of co-operation and in accounts and auditing. It continued to edit "Gram Jivan", a monthly magazine dealing with co-operation, agriculture and village uplift. It organised intensive propaganda for rural uplift at various centres and co-ordinated the work of different societies by calling conferences to consider problems affecting large areas or field of work.

CHAPTER XVIII

COMMERCE

Development of Port Okha

240. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE — The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of Port Okha during the year, as compared with the preceding year :—

Items	Revenue		Expenditure	
	1944-45	1943-44	1944-45	1943-44
<i>In lakhs of rupees</i>				
Port Customs at Okha including sub-ports.	4.36 15.03	3.51 36.04	3.69 0.96	2.44 0.91
Total ...	19.39	39.55	4.65	3.35

Cargo chargeable to a duty of Rs. 14.31 lakhs was in bond at the end of the year, as against Rs. 19.76 lakhs at the end of the preceding year.

241. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE — The capital expenditure incurred during the year was Rs. 0.86 lakh and the receipts from capital works Rs. 0.16 lakh. The main items of expenditure were buildings, port equipment and protective works. The total capital expenditure upto the end of the year amounted to Rs. 51.71 lakhs.

242. SHIPPING AND TRADE — The war and the export and import restrictions have adversely affected the shipping and trade of the port. Coasting steamers have ceased to call regularly and their number has dropped sharply from 226 in 1938-39 to 2, during the year under report. The number of ocean-going steamers that called at the port has also decreased by half, from 97 in 1939-40 to 46 in 1943-44 and 45 during the year under report.

The total cargo handled was 2,39,602 tons as against 2,09,262 tons in the preceding year. The export of cement increased from 1,08,575 tons to 1,30,128 tons but the export of salt fell by 6,000 tons to 14,029 tons.

The import of oil increased by 4,700 tons from 59,844 tons in 1944 to 64,549 in 1945. The Burniah Shell Company's installation at Okha supplies oil to the areas served by the metre gauge railways in Kathiawar, Rajputana, Central India and the Punjab.

There was no improvement in the imports of general goods: only 43 import licenses for goods of the value of Rs. 1.59 lakhs were given.

The details of shipping and cargo handled at the port during the year are shown below :—

		Number	Imports <i>Figure in tons</i>	Exports	Total
Country crafts	1944-45	2,566	11,662	15,840	27,502
	1943-44	1,088	2,457	17,751	20,208
Coasting	1944-45	4	1,464	2,618	4,082
	1943-44	2	127	4,180	4,307
Ocean going	1944-45	46	67,769	1,40,249	2,08,018
	1943-44	45	62,511	1,22,236	1,84,747
Total	1944-45	2,616	80,895	1,58,707	2,39,602
	1943-44	1,135	65,095	1,44,167	2,09,262

Development of commerce

243. TAX-FREE ZONES — A systematic plan for constituting tax-free zones at trade centres where municipalities levy octroi, has been adopted. Such zones have been established for Baroda and Kalol and, during the year, schemes were sanctioned for constituting zones at Sidhpur, Kadi and Dhinoj. Schemes for Mehsana, Unjha, Kheralu, Vadnagar, Chanasma and Vijapur were under discussion with the local merchants. The merchants of Amreli and Patan have decided against having tax-free zones.

244. WEIGHTS AND MEASURES — The inspectors verified and stamped 37,145 beam scales, platform machines, weigh bridges etc. The total income from verification fee was Rs. 22,910. Fifty eight persons were prosecuted of which 50 were convicted.

245. PATENTS AND DESIGNS — During the year, 17 new patents were sealed and 19 were renewed or restored. There were 51 patents in force at the end of the year, as against 46 in the previous year. They were mostly for improvements in machinery.

246. THE STATE ECONOMIC BOARD — The board consists of a naib dewan, who is president, heads of the revenue, public works, railway and police departments, and members representing trade, industry and agriculture. The board is charged with the following functions :—

- (i) to advise government on all questions relating to the economic development of the State;
- (ii) to co-ordinate the activities of the district economic boards, and advise government on schemes submitted by them;

- (iii) to assist the development departments in working out important schemes and in making intensive studies of important questions;
- (iv) to undertake surveys of trade; centres of production, existing market routes and conditions of marketing agricultural and other products of various localities; and
- (v) to consider the question of providing markets at suitable centres for the disposal of the agricultural and other products and for distributing trade.

In each district there is an economic board constituted on lines similar to the central board.

These boards held 13 meetings and dealt with 44 questions regarding issue of licenses to motor vehicles plying for hire, construction of roads and bridges, conveniences for railway passengers, agriculture etc. The State economic board held 2 meetings and considered the recommendations made by the district economic boards and other questions.

247. CONTROL ORDERS — Control orders similar to those promulgated in British India relating to aluminium, scrap iron and steel, cotton and woolen cloth, paper, chemicals, imports etc. continued in force.

CHAPTER XIX

INDUSTRIES

248. GOVERNMENT POLICY — The policy of the government is to assist in starting new and developing existing industries. There are three main directions in which the State gives such assistance:—

Firstly, surveys and scientific experiments and investigations are carried out by the State and their results made known to interested parties. Liberal grants are also given in aid of surveys, experiments etc., conducted by private persons or institutions.

Secondly, the State participates in the financing of pioneer industries by subscribing a portion of the share capital or by giving loans.

Thirdly, concessions are granted such as acquisition of land under the Land Acquisition Act and limitation of octroi duties so as not to hinder trade.

249. RESEARCH — The Technological Institute is the centre of industrial research and investigations. It conducted research on problems relating to textile, chemical, medical and oil industries. Some of the more important subjects of investigations may be mentioned:

- (i) The terminelia chebula and belaricas and rongalite preparation were analysed for tannin contents used in textile printing;
- (ii) Isolating proteins from ground nut and obtaining nicotine from waste tobacco products by electrolytic oxidisation; and
- (iii) Preparing calcium gluconate, a very useful medical chemical.

Besides these experiments for the preparation of dextrine, British gum, soluble starch from maize and stena starch, and of dehydrated castor oil were carried out. The manufacture of type metal, electro-plating silver salts, ghees and oils of various kinds was undertaken on semi-commercial scale and supplied to various departments and firms.

The testing and analytical section received numerous samples of chemicals, drugs, ores and minerals and oils for analysis.

250. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY — Sir Cyril Fox, lately director, geological survey of India, was invited by the government to carry out a survey of the geological and hydro-electrical resources of the State. His report is awaited.

251. CONCESSIONS — The department received 46 new applications for concessions during the year, and 52 were pending at the end of the preceding year. Of these, 25 were sanctioned, 17 were disallowed and 56 were pending disposal.

Of the applications received 42 were for acquisition of land for factories and 8 for loans for industrial purposes. During the year, the government sanctioned 3 loans to industrial concerns amounting to Rs. 0·18 lakh.

252. MINING — Five approval certificates were renewed.

Major industries

253. TEXTILE — The Textile industry continued to expand under the impetus of the conditions created by the war.

Cotton mills : There were 18 cotton mills working in the State, of which 7 were in the Baroda district, 8 in the Mehsana and 3 in the Navsari district.

Their consumption of cotton decreased from 1,23,665 bales to 1,05,594. Of this, 67 per cent was Indian cotton as against 71 per cent in the previous year. The number of looms increased from 6,956 to 6,960 but the number of spindles decreased from 3,55,726 to 3,39,368. The capital invested increased by Rs. 90 lakhs to Rs. 744 lakhs and the number of persons employed from 23,482 to 25,026. The quantity of yarn produced decreased from lbs. 415 lakhs to lbs. 348 lakhs.

Woollen mills : The Dinesh Mills Ltd., Baroda, was engaged in the execution of orders for war and civil supplies departments of the Government of India. It manufactured 4·67 lakhs yards of woollen cloth, valued at Rs. 24·25 lakhs as against cloth worth Rs. 26·50 lakhs in the previous year.

254. CHEMICALS — The chemical industry has expanded rapidly under the impetus of the war. Till recently the Alembic was the only important chemical factory in the State. Now, two other large concerns, the Tata Chemicals and the Sarabhai Chemicals, and several smaller concerns have been established and the Alembic have greatly expanded their plant and productive capacity.

The Tata Chemicals Ltd., Okha was started in 1939 with a paid up capital of Rs. 125 lakhs, for the manufacture of heavy chemicals. They produced during the year, 37,000 tons of salt and heavy chemicals, such as soda ash, bleaching powder, chlorine, hydrochloric acid etc. Their full plant has not yet started work.

The Alembic Chemical Works Ltd., Baroda, manufacture pharmaceutical drugs and fine chemicals. They have increased their capital from Rs. 20·0 lakhs to Rs. 50·0 lakhs, during the war, and largely expanded their plant and productive capacity.

The Sarabhai Chemicals Ltd., Baroda, have been established with a capital of Rs. 50 lakhs for the manufacture of fine chemicals. They have nearly completed the erection of their plant.

The Petlad Chemical Works and the Star Chemical Works manufactured mainly sulphuric acid. The latter has recently installed a sodium sulphide plant.

The Vimso Chemicals, Navsari, and the Baroda Chemical Industry, Ltd., Dabhoi, manufacture methylated spirit and alcohol.

The National Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., manufacture medicines.

255. MISCELLANEOUS — The following are some of the other more important industries in the State:

Sugar : The Gandevi Sugar Works was sold in October 1944 and will be removed outside the State. It did not work during the year.

Matches : The Datar Match Factory at Petlad produced 2,43,780 gross matches, during the year, as against 2,41,319 in the previous year. The excise duty collected on these amounted to Rs. 7·28 lakhs as against Rs. 6·79 lakhs in the previous year.

China clay : The China Clay Works at Ransipur refined 523 tons of china clay during the year as against 440 tons in the preceding year. They paid a royalty of Rs. 2,000 as in the previous year.

Surgical instruments : Messrs. Powells Industries Ltd., Billimora, have installed their machinery but not started work.

Pottery : The Baroda Potteries Ltd., have been established with an authorised capital of Rs. 25 lakhs, for the manufacture of crockery, fire bricks required by mills and cheap glazed pottery, whiteware, sanitary fittings etc. The erection of their plant is not yet complete.

Glass industry : The Baroda Crystal Glass Works Ltd., Baroda, having a paid up capital of Rs. 16 lakhs, manufacture all types of glass articles like bottles, chimneys, globes, tumblers etc.

The Alembic Glass Industries Ltd., Baroda, produce on an average of about 1,40,000 glass bottles per month.

Cottage industries

256. COTTAGE INDUSTRIES — For the development of cottage industries in the State, the government maintain the Diamond Jubilee Cottage Industries Institute in Baroda and a large number of training classes in the villages, where scholarships are given to students. The government also gave grants-in-aid to private institutions, which promote the development of cottage industries and loans for starting them.

257. DIAMOND JUBILEE COTTAGE INDUSTRIES INSTITUTE — The institute was established in 1936 to co-ordinate and further the efforts of the government to introduce cottage industries in the State.

The industries, which the institute is intended to encourage, are those that can be taken up

- (i) as whole-time occupations by men with small capital, belonging to the middle or artisan classes; or
- (ii) as part-time subsidiary occupations by agriculturists.

The functions of the institute are to take up industries, which can usefully employ these classes of people, teach such industries through classes and demonstrations; to carry out investigations for simplifying processes and for the use of power and mechanical devices and to introduce new designs; to finance schemes started by trained persons and study marketing of finished products. The institute pays special attention to the revival of such well known arts as the Visnagar brass work and the Sankheda lacquer work.

During the year, there were 47 students in the institute, 7 learning calico printing, 6 lacquer work, 7 leather work, 8 in metal work class, 8 in brass stool and wood carving class and 11 in tailoring class.

The assistance of a demonstrator was continued to Shree Chinnabai Stree Udyogalaya for training middle and backward class women in dyeing and calico printing. Scholarships worth Rs. 50 per month were given and 8 women received training during the year. Besides this, elementary training in dyeing and printing was given to 6 village women. A class to teach weaving of newar or tape has also been opened.

The sales depot of the institute organised to provide marketing facilities for the products of different cottage industries in the State, did useful work. It exhibited and sold articles prepared in the institute and by the artisans of the State. Orders for wood and metal work, calico printing, leather work and lacquer work were executed. The total value of the sales was Rs. 5,074. Half the price of articles exhibited is advanced to the artisans to assist them.

258. DEMONSTRATIONS IN VILLAGES -- Demonstration classes in hand-loom weaving were held at four centres at which 88 students were trained, as against 205 in the previous year. They were taught improved methods of sizing, weaving and new designs were introduced.

Demonstration classes in carding and spinning were held at two centres in the Baroda and Amreli districts and 27 persons trained. In the villages around these centres a large number of families have taken up carding and spinning as supplementary industries. They have ginned and carded over 400 mds. cotton and yarn and prepared 257 takas of khadi.

Improved methods of dyeing and printing were demonstrated to 70 persons of Petlad.

Classes for chamars and village tanners, teaching improved methods in bark tanning, were held at 4 centres and 27 students were trained.

Six students were trained in the leather work class at Kalol.

The eri silk classes at Devli and Dolasa (Kodinar) were continued at which 150 persons were trained. Demonstrations were also arranged in the neighbouring villages. Kodinar has been found a suitable place for sericulture and a beginning has been made.

259. LOANS -- Loans are advanced to chamars, weavers and other artisans to develop their small industries. These are given free of interest and recovered by small monthly instalments. During the year, loans amounting to Rs. 49,900 were advanced as against Rs. 27,900 in the previous year. Instalments amounting to Rs. 24,391 were recovered and Rs. 24,391 were outstanding at the end of the year.

Industries board

260. INDUSTRIES BOARD -- To provide technical information regarding the possibility of starting industries in the State and to assist industrialists with advice on technical matters, the government have created an industries board. It consists of four sections : mechanical, agricultural, chemical and general. Government officers and gentlemen from the public are appointed on these sections, which together constitute the board.

During the year, the industries board investigated the possibilities of air conditioning and refrigeration for commercial purposes.

Factories

261. FACTORY INSPECTION -- The number of factories under the Factories Act - those employing 30 or more workers - was 178 as against 170 in the previous year — 76 perennial and 102 seasonal.

Out of the perennial factories working, 4 were inspected once and 71 more than once. Of the 102 seasonal factories, only 92 worked this season. Of these, 76 were inspected once and 3 twice; the others could not be inspected because they worked only for a short time. Their sanitation and other arrangements were generally satisfactory.

262. BOILERS ACT — The number of boilers on the register was 659 as against 651 in the previous year. But of these, 15 had been removed or scrapped. All the remaining boilers were inspected, during the year. Two owners of perennial factories were fined for breach of provisions of the Act.

263. ACCIDENTS — The total number of accidents, during the year, was 403 as against 344 in the previous year. Of these, 321 were minor, 79 serious and 3 fatal.

264. NIGHT SHIFT — Out of 76 perennial factories, 29 worked on night shift almost throughout the year, as against 25 during the previous year. Some of the seasonal factories worked on night shift for parts of the season.

Labour

265. GENERAL — There are over 43,300 workers employed in the factories of the State, of which more than three fourths or 33,000 are in textile industries and 10,000 in the other industries. Six thousand were women. In the previous year there were 1,400 children of the age of 12 to 15 years, but during the year under report, this number decreased to 230, although the total number of workers increased by about 1,500.

The provision of amenities for workmen and the maintenance of harmonious relations between them and their employers is the principal objective of the government's labour policy. The growth of healthy trade unions is encouraged and employers are urged and assisted to provide libraries and reading rooms, canteens, dispensaries and creches and to organise co-operative and housing societies. Moreover, in case of disputes between labour and employer government intervene to bring about a settlement by arbitration and conciliation.

266. TRADE UNIONS — Only the textile workers of the State are organised in trade unions of which there are 5, one in each centre. The Baroda Union had 2,474 members, the Petlad Union 2,854, the Kalol Union 2,589, the Kadi Union 1,105 and the Sidhpur Union 1,391. Their membership formed 31.2 per cent of the total number of textile workers as against 23.1 per cent in the preceding year.

267. LABOUR DISPUTES — There were no strikes during the year. The disputes regarding dearness allowance or bonus between the labour and the management of Alembic Chemical Works and of the Sidhpur Mills Co., were settled through the intervention of government.

The demand of the workers of Shree Sayaji Jubilee Cotton and Jute Mills Co., Ltd., for higher wages has been referred to an arbitrator appointed by the government.

There were other minor disputes also which were satisfactorily settled by the department.

268. AMENITIES PROVIDED FOR LABOURERS — Canteens have been organised in 19 factories as against 15 in the previous year. They are run on a non profit basis and the workmen were satisfied with their catering. The department is continuing its efforts to have canteens started in all the larger factories.

Arrangements for indoor and outdoor games have been made by 7 factories. Libraries for the use of their employees have been opened by 5 managements and 2 trade unions are conducting adult education classes.

A housing society of the workers of Kalol mills was organised and building site acquired for them by the government, but the abnormal rise in prices of building materials have forced the government to postpone the completion of the scheme.

All the large industrial concerns of the State run grain shops for their employees, at which grain is supplied at cost price.

Almost all the mills in the State have creches, some in charge of nurses, for the children of their women employees, and two mills supply milk free to the children.

Twenty two large factories have their own dispensaries on their premises, at which free medical aid was provided to labourers. In all factories, provision for first-aid has been made.

269. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES — The present prosperity of the factory workers, for the first time offers him an opportunity to make a substantial saving. To capitalise this opportunity for his future welfare, special efforts have been made by the government to start workmen's co-operative credit and thrift societies. The assistant director of labour was appointed a special registrar and, by the end of the year, 20 societies were organised, with a membership of 23,267. In the following statement the progress in savings is shown:—

(*Figures in lakhs of rupees*)

Year	Share capital			Compulsory savings from wages		Total	
				dearness allowance			
1944-45	2.18	3.95	16.20	22.46
1943-44	1.66	2.19	9.89	13.80

The total savings from dearness allowance received by the members of these societies during the year was Rs. 6.3 lakhs or an average of Rs. 27-8-0 per member. The savings effected from wages was Rs. 1.76 lakhs or an average of Rs. 7-10-0 per member.

270. PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT — During the year 71 complaints were received, regarding dismissals or irregular payment of labourers as against 62 in the previous year, out of which 39 were decided in favour of labourers and 9 against them.

271. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT — The administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act continued to be in the hands of the district magistrates who are ex-officio commissioners under the Act.

Compensation amounting to Rs. 24,693 was paid to workers for accidents in factories as against Rs. 21,007 in the previous year.

272. MATERNITY BENEFIT — The total amount of maternity benefit paid to women operatives in the factories was Rs. 3,818 as against Rs. 4,431 in the previous year.

273. LABOUR COMMITTEES — The State was represented by the director of industries at the sixth meeting of the Standing Labour Committee (sub-committee of Tripartite Labour Conference) held at New Delhi on the 17th March, 1945.

274. TRAINING OF LABOUR OFFICERS — Mr. V. K. Pawar has been deputed by the government to attend the short social service course organised at the Calcutta University by the labour department of the Government of India for training labour officers. Two more officers will be sent in the future.

Arrangements have also been made for deputing an officer to England for training, according to the scheme of the Government of India for training labour officers.

CHAPTER XX

STATISTICS AND INSURANCE

I. Commercial intelligence and statistics

275. RETURNS AND STATEMENTS — The following returns and statements were compiled by the department :—

<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Annual</i>
Consumption of cotton bales.	Returns of joint stock companies
Returns of joint stock companies.	Returns of foreign joint stock companies.
Returns of foreign sea-borne trade.	Returns of minerals.
<i>Annual</i>	<i>Annual</i>
Returns of cotton mills.	Returns of large industrial establishments.
Returns of woollen mills.	Returns of stock of cotton held by the trade centres in the State on the 31st August 1944.
	The statistical abstract, 1943-44.

276. WAGE CENSUS — The State co-operated with the Government of India in the cost of living index scheme. Accordingly, during the year, a wage census was taken in the textile mills of Baroda city on the lines laid down in the scheme and the data sent to the central bureau.

II. Joint stock companies

277. REGISTERED COMPANIES — At the end of the year there were 346 registered companies — 194 public and 152 private, of which 19 were in liquidation. Of the registered companies, 249 were incorporated in the State and the remaining 97 were foreign. Of the indigenous companies, 28 were cotton mills, including 3 in liquidation, 10 were electricity supply company, 23 for chemical and other allied trades, 5 insurance companies and the remaining were agencies and miscellaneous companies. Of the 97 foreign companies, 71 were insurance companies.

278. CLASSIFICATION OF NEW COMPANIES — During the year, 43 new companies were registered. Of these 14 were foreign companies,

2 banking, 11 life, fire or marine insurance and 1 provident insurance. The 29 companies incorporated in the State may be classified as follows :—

I TRANSIT AND TRANSPORT		Ice and aerated waters.		1
Motor traction, dealing and manufacturing.		Tobacco (cigarette)		1
3		Others.		1
II TRADING AND MANUFACTURING		III MILLS AND PRESSES		
Printing and stationery.	1	Cotton mills,		1
Chemicals and allied trades.	3	Cotton gins and presses.		3
Engineering.	1	Mills for wool, silk and hemp.		1
Clay, stones, cement etc,	1	Paper mills.		1
Glass.	1	Oil mills.		4
Agencies.	6	Total		29

279. CONTROL OF CAPITAL ISSUES — Government control on the issue of capital continued in force in the State during the year. Permissions were given for issue of capital in the State in 54 cases. Of these, 38 were for first issue and 16 for further issue of capital.

280. CAPITAL OF COMPANIES — The paid-up capital of companies incorporated in the State increased by Rs. 52 lakhs and of the companies, other than insurance companies, incorporated outside the State by Rs. 110 lakhs. This increase was either due to registration of new companies or increase of capital by the existing companies. The following table shows the authorised, subscribed and paid-up capital of companies incorporated in and outside the State, excluding foreign insurance companies working in the State :—

At the end of the year	Number of registered companies	Autho- rised	Subscribed	Paid-up			Total
				Companies incorporated In the State	Companies incorporated Outside the State		
1944-45	275	5,982·58	2,480·3	6,067·80	1,570·42	2,177·21	
1943-44	248	5,216·2	2,286·9	5,546·2	1,459·8	2,014·5	
Increase.	27	766·3	193·4	52·2	110·5	162·7	

281. BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES — There were 179 registered benevolent societies in the beginning of the year and 116 new societies were registered during the year, making a total of 295. Of these, 54 societies were for prompting education, 79 for libraries, 11 for sanitation and medical relief, 29 merchants associations, 47 gymnasiums and the remaining for other miscellaneous purposes. Out of 295 societies, 200 were in the Baroda district, 52 in Mehsana, 27 in Navsari and 16 in Amreli districts.

282. CERTIFIED AUDITORS — There were 71 certified auditors on the register at the end of the year, of whom 14 were registered during the year.

283. PARTNERSHIP FIRMS — There were 894 registered partnership firms at the beginning of the year and 133 new firms were registered during the year. Of these, 3 were dissolved leaving 1024 firms on the register at the end of the year.

III. Insurance

284. INSURANCE COMPANIES — There are 79 insurance companies registered under the State Insurance Act, 1938, of which 5 were registered during the year. Of these, 74 were insurance companies incorporated outside the State and 5 in the State. Besides these, there were 4 foreign provident insurance societies working in the State.

For canvassing insurance business in the State 1,589 licences were issued under the State Insurance Act as against 1,293 in the previous year.

285. WAR RISKS INSURANCE — The War Risks (factories & goods) Insurance Ordinances continued in force. The War Risks (factories) Insurance Ordinance was extended for a further period of one year from 31st March 1945.

Insurance of State servants

286. WORKING OF THE INSURANCE SCHEME — The scheme for compulsory insurance of all government servants was put into operation in 1940. It applies to persons who join service after 1st August 1940, and to those already in service on that date, unless they were over forty years of age or drew a salary of Rs. 20 or less per month, or were already insured for the prescribed amount. The director of statistics is in charge of this department.

During the year 1468 proposals for insurance were received, 1261 were accepted, 136 rejected and 40 were pending.

The total number of proposals accepted up to the end of the year was 6,474 which brought an annual premium of Rs. 1.46 lakhs.

In 35 cases, claims amounting to Rs. 12,920 were paid on the death of the insured.

The total insurance fund invested amounted to Rs. 3.50 lakhs at the end of the year, as against Rs. 2.35 lakhs at the end of the previous year.

CHAPTER XXI

ELECTRICITY

287. BARODA ELECTRIC SUPPLY — The city electric supply undertaking was maintained in working condition. During the 5 years of the war, great difficulty was experienced in obtaining spare parts necessary to maintain the power plant at a safe level of efficiency. On the other hand, the development of the city and the rise of new industries during the same period placed an additional load of half a million units or 15 per cent on an overburdened system. The 1200 h. p. generating set, erected in the preceding year, brought relief but a mishap to its engine in July 1945 put it out of commission.

Under the circumstances, as a precaution against a serious break down of the supply, two measures were taken :

- (i) new connections were severely restricted;
- (ii) electric current was shut off during certain hours of the day and night.

The ultimate electrical scheme for Baroda has been approved. The government have decided to join the grid system of electric supply envisaged by the Government of Bombay and with that object negotiations between the two governments are in progress.

The output of energy increased by about 2·5 per cent to 4·42 million units. The demand amounted to 3·66 million units as against 3·62 million units in the preceding year. Of these, 57 per cent were used for domestic purposes, 34 per cent for industrial and 9 per cent for pumps, gardens and municipal sewage station. The number of consumers was 4237 and the consumption per head was 23·6 units per year.

The working expenses of the city supply undertaking amounted to Rs. 4·03 lakhs as against Rs. 3·66 in the preceding year. The cost per unit generated was 1·4 anna and per unit sold 1·7 annas.

The total revenue amounted to Rs. 7·70 lakhs as against Rs. 7·26 lakhs in the preceding year and the working expenses to Rs. 4·04 lakhs. The surplus, after allowing Rs. 0·96 lakh for depreciation, represents a net profit of 9·1 per cent on the capital outlay of Rs. 29·50 lakhs. After deducting Rs. 1·17 lakhs for the government first charge at 4 per cent the surplus transferred to the reserve fund

amounted to Rs. 1.66 lakhs. The depreciation and reserve funds at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 48.46 lakhs — Rs. 16.18 and Rs. 32.28 lakhs respectively.

288. PETLAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY — The Petlad electric supply undertaking was maintained in a satisfactory working condition. The number of units generated was 0.26 million and the number of units sold 0.23 million. Of these 42 per cent were for domestic purposes, 40 per cent for industrial and 18 per cent for street lighting and agricultural purposes. The number of consumers increased during the year from 552 to 588 and the annual consumption per head was 9.80 units. The cost per unit generated was 1.7 as. and of units sold 1.9 as.

The revenue amounted to Rs. 0.48 lakh, and the working expenses to Rs. 0.29 lakh, leaving a gross surplus of Rs. 0.19 lakh. After deducting the depreciation of Rs. 6,500, the net surplus represents a profit of 6.3 per cent on the capital outlay of Rs. 2.02 lakhs as against 6.2 per cent in the preceding year. The depreciation and reserve fund at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 6,512 and Rs. 9,547 respectively.

289. GANDEVI ELECTRIC SUPPLY — The power house at Gandevi supplies power to the Manekpura and Umra pumping stations. The output was 0.2 million units and the consumption 0.17 million units. Of these 16 per cent were for domestic purposes, 66 per cent for agricultural and 18 per cent for industrial. The number of consumers was 331, the consumption per head 22.77 units, the cost of a unit generated 1.88 as. and of unit sold 2.18 as.

The revenue amounted to Rs. 0.28 lakh and the working expenses to Rs. 0.26 lakh, leaving a gross surplus of Rs. 2,247. After deducting depreciation of Rs. 2,231, the net profit was Rs. 15 on the capital outlay of Rs. 2.12 lakhs. The depreciation and reserve fund at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 2,231 and Rs. 9,605 respectively.

290. OKHA ELECTRIC SUPPLY — The power house at Okha is under the harbour board. It supplied electricity to the port workshop and other industrial concerns and for lighting. The output was 1,53,875 units all of which was sold 22,043 units for lighting and 42,994 units for industries.

291. VIJAPUR TUBE WELL PROJECT — The machinery has been received and the erection of the power house was in progress during the year. The running of over head high tension lines has also begun.

Besides these government undertakings, there were ten electric supply concerns operating in the State.

Telephones

292. TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN THE STATE — There are automatic telephone systems in Baroda, Navsari, Petlad, Dabhoi, Kalol, Mehsana and Billimora and public call offices at Bhilupur and Gandevi. Schemes to extend the system to Patan, Sidhpur, Harij, Kadi, Bhadran, Unza and other important trade centres of the State have been postponed as instruments and materials were not available during the war.

The extension of the telephone system of Baroda city at an estimated cost of Rs. 6 lakhs has also been taken in hand, as the maximum capacity of the present exchange is almost reached, and the demand for new connections continues to grow.

The income from telephones was very satisfactory — The percentage of net profit varying from 9.9 per cent in the city to 26.8 per cent in the Navsari-Billimora system.

The details are shown in the following statement :—

System	Gross earnings	Working expenses	Depreciation	Net profit	Percentage of profit
Baroda City	... 0.81	0.32	0.16	0.33	9.9
Dabhoi-Petlad	... 0.29	0.09	0.04	0.16	14.5
Kalol-Mehsana	... 0.32	0.08	0.03	0.21	19.4
Navsari-Billimora	... 0.38	0.07	0.04	0.26	26.8

293. BROADCASTING — The transmitter for the broadcasting station has been ordered and is expected shortly.

The number of radio licenses increased from 2,420 to 2,510 and the revenue realised from Rs. 0.15 lakh to Rs. 0.22 lakh. The radio reserve fund amounted to Rs. 0.83 lakh.

CHAPTER XXII

FISHERIES

294. THE STATE FISHERIES — There are four maritime areas of the State in which fish industry exists, and is being developed : The Navsari and Kodinar sea coasts, the Mahi estuary in the Baroda district, and Beyt in the gulf of Cutch. From the trade data and other statistics collected, it is estimated that the annual production of fish at present is over 5,500 tons — 5,000 from marine fisheries and 500 from estuarine. The government's efforts to develop these consist mainly of (i) introducing improved methods of catching, preserving and marketing, (ii) starting new fish industries, such as shark liver oil and fish manure industries, (iii) increasing and regulating the supply by erecting fish farms and hatcheries. Besides this, systematic surveys of the numerous rivers and tanks of the State are being undertaken and those found suitable are stocked with imported food fish of various kinds.

295. SURVEYS AND STATISTICS — Surveys and collection of biological specimens and statistical data were continued. A biological survey of the Kathiawar territories in collaboration with the biological department of Baroda College, with emphasis on possibilities of industrial development, has been sanctioned.

296. MARINE FISHERIES — For the development of marine fisheries, the establishment of a biological station and aquarium at Okha, a fish farm at Velan and a hatchery at Muldwarka have been included in post-war programme of development.

297. PEARL AND CONCH FISHERIES — The window pane oyster pearl fisheries and the right to collect shanks from the Okha seas have been leased to the Baroda Biological Industries Ltd., for 5 years for a rental of Rs. 4,000 a year. The company, however, has not been able to start work and has sub-let the farm for two years.

298. INDUSTRIAL EXPERIMENTS AND RESEARCH — Industrial experiments and demonstrations were continued at Madhwad and Vanchi Borsi stations. Demonstrations were given in fish manure, fish conservancy and oil extraction. Prawn meal dust and oyster grit were successfully prepared and marketed. Smoking, pickling and curing according to a new recipe was done at Kotda with much success.

The study of pests attacking cured fish was continued. The dermestes vulpinus, beetles of the genus necrobia, two mites and an aphid were found most destructive to cured fish, dried Bombay duck and prawns. A simple system of storing in earthen vessels kept about 2 ft. above the ground is effective as the insects cannot fly.

299. SHARK LIVER OIL — The scheme for the development of shark liver oil industry at Okha, Madhwad and other fishermen's villages was continued. The extraction and filtration stations at Madhwad and the refining and medicating station at Okha did useful work, through demonstrations and propaganda, in educating the fishermen to the commercial value of the liver oil and the scientific methods of extraction.

Fishing and collection of livers is no longer done directly by the department, but livers and oil are purchased from fishermen. The difficulty of obtaining these from fishermen—an indication that local fishermen are taking up shark liver oil extraction as an industry—curtailed the output of the government centres.

During the year, the government centres produced 644 lbs. and the income from the sale of oil and its products was Rs. 2,082, as against an expenditure of Rs. 2,026.

The department is now concentrating on research on the oil and its bye-products which is being conducted at the Institute of Technology, Baroda.

300. FRESH WATER FISHERIES — The possibilities of increasing the food supply by stocking rivers and irrigation tanks with rapidly multiplying fishes, are being explored and during the year the catla, etroplus and gourami were introduced into Haripura and Karichia tanks.

The Dhadhar river was surveyed in 1942-43 and a scheme for the establishment of the fresh-water prawn farm at Nedra was approved in the following year. But owing to the difficulty in obtaining building materials no further progress could be made.

An investigation of importance, because of the wide prevalence of the nuisance in Gujarat, was the inquiry into the weed nuisance in Dabhoi tank. All attempts to eradicate weeds by chemicals or by manual labour have proved fruitless. The results of the investigations carried out by the department indicate, that a possible remedy may be found in stocking the tank with fish of the labeo, catla, cirrhina and etroplus kinds and arrangements have accordingly been made.

301. SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES — Efforts to organise the fishermen of the State, (the Machees of Navsari area, the Bhoyees of Baroda, the Machiaras of Kodinar and the Badelas of Beyt) through co-operative society and fisherman's colonies were continued, but did not meet with marked success. The colonisation scheme at Kotdah,

where land has been bought and facilities are offered to induce fishermen to settle and develop a fish industry has not tempted any families to make permanent settlements. Attempts to revive the co-operative movement among the Machees of Naysari have not materialised; the Machiaras of Kodinar, however, seem to be more responsive and efforts are being continued among them.

The department made a survey of the yarn, sail cloth, fishing hooks etc., required by the fishermen and arrangements have been made through the Government of India to supply these at a reasonable price.

CHAPTER XXIII

FORESTS

302. FORESTS — The forests of the State cover 713 square miles. They fall into two distinct groups: (i) the mixed deciduous teak forests of the Navsari district situated in a belt of heavy rainfall; these cover 561 square miles or 80 per cent of the forest area; and (ii) the fuel and grazing forests of the drier districts of Baroda, Mehsana, Amreli and Okhamandal. These forests are of immense value both in preventing soil erosion and covering the catchment areas of local natural water sources and as producing valuable timber.

A cautious policy directed towards conserving and exploiting the forests has been adopted. Plans for silviculture, research, management of forests and utilisation of their produce have been carefully revised and modified according to the recommendations of the forest expert engaged from the Government of Bombay in 1938-39.

A. Silviculture

303. SYSTEMS — In the timber forests of the Navsari district, the system of selection-cum-improvement with fixed girth limits for the main species has been introduced in place of the coppice-with-standards worked on a forty year rotation. Girth limit for teak in the main felling has been provisionally fixed at 34 inches.

The fuel forests were worked under the simple coppice system, the trees being so cut as to stimulate regeneration in the form of coppice shoots. The scrub forests of Sankheda, however, were worked under "modified clear fellings" with a rotation of thirty years.

304. REGENERATION — The rainfall in the forests of the Navsari district was 84 inches during the year. All the principal species seeded well, and plant survival from natural seed and growth of coppice shoots in the felled coupes was satisfactory.

Natural regeneration from fallen seeds was supplemented by artificial sowings under the 'rab' method. Selected plots in the freshly worked coupes with a total area of 140 bighas were clear felled, the debris systematically stacked and burnt and the plots sown with teak and other seeds.

Besides this, 1,15,700 stump plants of valuable kinds of timber, specially teak, were put in the space between rabs and in parts where seeds had not germinated, and 48,000 nursery plants of various valuable species were planted.

In the forest areas of Gir, Attarsumba and Okhamandal and in the salt lands of the Navsari district, 24,000 seedlings of hardy local species have been successfully planted. Their progress is being watched with interest, as the success of these trials will be an important step in the afforestation of these areas.

305. RESEARCH — Plots have been laid at different places in the forest areas to determine the increase in girth and height of the principal species.

Seeds of sandal, tung (*aleurites fordii*, and *aleurites montana*) were planted in several forests. The sandal plants were progressing well but the *aleurites* germination was poor. Trials for the cultivation of pyrethrum and *derris ferruginea*, two exotic insecticide-yielding plants, first laid in 1940, were successfully continued. They yield about 2 per cent of rotenone.

B. Utilisation

306. MAJOR FOREST PRODUCE — The timber market showed a slight decline. The acute shortage of railway transport, which held up the transport of timber and firewood from the depots, affected the prices offered by the contractors for coupes, but even so the prices were sufficiently high to induce intensive exploitation of all kinds of woods. Kakad and modad, for instance, which formerly had to be removed at government expense, brought about Rs. 3,000. Kalam and haladwan were extracted in large quantities for bobin manufacture and samar for matchwood. With the stoppage of imports of bobins during the war the textile industry would have been seriously handicapped but for the bobins manufactured from haladwan wood supplied by the forests of Baroda and Bombay. The revenue from these was about Rs. 10,000. The total income from the sale of timber decreased by Rs. 3.32 lakhs from Rs. 14.68 lakhs to 11.36 lakhs.

The total area exploited was 16,026 bighas as against 19,802 bighas in the preceding year, but the timber extracted was 7,22,000 as against 6,38,000 cubic feet, and the fuel 16,40,000 cu. ft. as against 14,72,000 cu. ft. in the preceding year. The average realisation per bigha declined from Rs. 74-1-11 to Rs. 70-14-0.

307. MINOR FOREST PRODUCE — The minor forest products are exploited on a system of farming and license. The total value of such produce sold was Rs. 2.03 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1.2 lakhs in the preceding year.

Grazing fees amounted to Rs. 39,300 as against Rs. 30,700 in the preceding year; bamboos brought Rs. 56,500 as against Rs. 32,400; stone from Songir quarries Rs. 6,800 as against Rs. 6,000; timru leaves Rs. 14,000 as against Rs. 7,200 and miscellaneous revenue Rs. 79,500 as against Rs. 38,800. The increase of Rs. 41,000 in miscellaneous revenue was largely due to the intensive exploitation of such products as seeds of tamarind, karanj, cassia flora for their medicinal value.

308. FOREST INDUSTRIES — A lease for the development of katha (catechu), lac and timru leaves industries in these forests have been granted. The details will be found in the chapter on industries.

309. MISCELLANEOUS — As a precaution against fodder famine in the Amreli district and Okhamandal, which periodically suffer from acute shortage of rain, the government have decided to store 10,00,000 lbs. of grass in Amreli. Although large quantities of grass were destroyed by forest fires during the year, 5,50,000 lbs. were stored in the Gir ranges.

The people of the Navsari forest areas are allowed to take from the forests, free of cost, building materials for huts. During the year, materials worth Rs. 0.44 lakh were taken.

Cultivators are urged to take up forest lands and to grow food crops between lines of plants and trees free of cost, on condition of planting and tending forest trees and plants—a system beneficial alike for the forests and the cultivators. In all 580 bighas have been taken up during these two years. Such cultivation requires a technique which the farmers have yet to learn from experience and no great expansion of cultivation in forest areas can be expected, till such technique develops and becomes widely known.

C. Forest Administration

310. FOREST CESS — The income from forest cess is earmarked for construction of forest roads. It amounted to Rs. 1.16 lakhs as against Rs. 1.41 lakhs in 1943-44. The expenditure during the year, was Rs. 0.49 lakh as against Rs. 0.83 lakh, and the balance of forest cess at the end of the year was Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

311. ROADS AND BUILDINGS — Serious difficulty was experienced in obtaining labour for constructing roads etc., with the result that the 5 years programme for a complete system of forest roads had to be suspended. During the year, only 15 miles of fair weather roads were completed and 26 miles were under construction.

The maintenance of roads cost Rs. 5,700 and of buildings and wells Rs. 3,500 during the year.

312. OFFENCES — The number of forest offences was 203 as against 145 in the preceding year. The high prices of timber and grass was a temptation to unauthorised felling and removal of produce and such offences increased by 50 per cent.

313. FIRES -- The area damaged or destroyed by fire was 22,100 bighas as against 30,700 bighas in the previous year. It was natural that with the increased exploitation of forests, specially for fire wood and minor products, there should be an increase in the number of fires. However, as proper precautions were taken, the damage was trivial, estimated at no more than Rs. 350. The expenditure on fire protection was Rs. 7,700 or Rs. 10.8 per square mile as against Rs. 5.4 in the preceding year.

314. PROTECTION AGAINST CATTLE — Under the system adopted on the recommendation of the forest expert, felled coupes were thrown open to grazing in the sixth year instead of the tenth after felling. The closure is limited to areas which after felling have been put under regeneration and those with young plantations, hence only 10.7 per cent of the forest area was closed to grazing.

During the year, 94,200 animals grazed as against 90,000 in the previous year. The incidence of grazing in the reserved forests was 7.3 bighas per animal during the year, as against 7.6 bighas in the previous year. The revenue realised under this head was Rs. 27,500.

315. DESTRUCTION OF VEGETATION -- According to the working plan, creepers are destroyed every year in one-eighth of the area of each range. In addition, coupe contractors are required under their agreements to cut climbers in their coupes. During the year, climbers were destroyed in 1,16,000 bighas as against 1,10,000 in the preceding year.

316. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE — The total revenue for the year was Rs. 14.67 lakhs as against Rs. 16.32 lakhs in the preceding year. The total expenditure was Rs. 1.41 lakhs as against Rs. 1.32 and the net surplus Rs. 12.11 lakhs as against Rs. 15.0 lakhs.

CHAPTER XXIV

PUBLIC WORKS

317. GENERAL — The progress of public works has been seriously affected by the shortage of supplies and building materials, the difficulty of transport and the rise in prices, and several important works of public utility have had to be postponed. Many others, however, in spite of these difficulties, were undertaken or completed, mostly irrigation works and roads, and surveys and plans for undertakings such as water supply and drainage, and extension schemes for several towns have been prepared.

The department also completed the preparation of a post-war road development scheme for a complete system of provincial and village roads with a mileage of 3,472, including 76 miles of national highway, estimated to cost Rs. 1,039 lakhs spread over 15 years.

318. IRRIGATION — New projects: The schemes which are under execution or investigation will irrigate very extensive areas of the State, specially of the arid Mehsana district. These are:

(i) *Vijapur tube well irrigation scheme*: To test the sub-soil supply of water, which would afford data for a tube well irrigation project by means of an electric grid for northern areas of the Mehsana district, 40 tube wells were sanctioned in 1939–40, after a comprehensive survey of the area by Sir William Stamp. Accordingly, the wells were sunk, but only 16 proved successful, instead of 30 as was anticipated. Besides these, 10 other tube wells were already in operation, so that there were 26 successful tube wells available for the operation of the scheme. Of these, however, only 17 worked during the year.

The machinery for the central power house was received during the year and the erection of the plant was in progress.

The 17 successful wells which worked during the year irrigated 1,394 bighas of food crops. The revenue realised was Rs. 0.17 lakh. The total expenditure on the scheme has been Rs. 11.77 lakhs, of which Rs. 2.34 was during the year.

- (ii) *Sabarmati project* : The project contemplates damming the Sabarmati river at Ransipur and drawing the water to irrigate the southern areas of the Mehsana district. The scheme now awaits scrutiny by an irrigation expert. The cost, it is estimated, will be Rs. 193.0 lakhs. The project will ultimately control 60,000 bighas.
- (iii) *Zankhri river project* : The scheme as worked out, will irrigate 37,000 bighas including 13,000 bighas of sugarcane of the Vyara and Mahuwa talukas of the Navsari district. It was approved by irrigation experts but the report of geological survey pointed to the necessity of taking deeper borings. Arrangements are being made for this. The cost of the complete project will be Rs. 135.0 lakhs.
- (iv) *Ambica river scheme* : This is a scheme for improving irrigation facilities in the Gandevi taluka for growing sugarcane with a view to develop sugar industry in that area. Permanent weirs have been constructed at Umra and at Manekpur on the Ambica river and water is lifted by means of electric pumps. The capacity of the present storage at Umra is only for about 500 bighas, which has been reached, but possibilities of increasing the storage capacity are being investigated. The Manekpur lifting station also irrigates about 500 bighas.

The total cost of the scheme was Rs. 5.78 lakhs, Rs. 4,39,000 for the Umra station and Rs. 1,39,200 for Manekpur station.

319. IRRIGATION TANKS — The maintenance and repairs of irrigation tanks is an important charge of the department. Special repairs were carried out to the tanks at Haripura, Vadadla, Karachia, Jawala, Wadhwana, Mota Ankadia, Pichavi and Mithikhadi. Besides these, six others were repaired and 12 reconditioned. The scheme for the improvement of the tanks in backward areas of the Mehsana district, namely, the talukas of Kadi, Kalol, Chanasma, Patan and Harij was pressed forward, inspite of the scarcity of labour, and 7 tanks were reconditioned.

The existing irrigation works irrigated 12,262 bighas. The total revenue realised was Rs. 0.55 lakh and the net return per bigha was Rs. 4.44 as against Rs. 3.75 in the preceding year.

320. FIELD DRAINS AND KOTARS — To prevent water logging in agricultural lands, new drains are cut every year where required and existing ones maintained in good condition. For these works a provision of Rs. 1.63 lakhs was made.

In the Baroda district, the Bhilupur-Khundala drain emptying into the Dhadhar kotar and the extension of the Boriad-Dhameli-Sathod-Habipura drain were under construction. The work on the Vesma drain in the Navsari district was also continued.

The bunding of the kotars at Karnali, Itola, Padra and Shinor in the Baroda district was in progress.

321. TOWN IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES —

(i) Baroda city :

Water supply — The Baroda city water works and the distribution system within the municipal limits are under the control of the Baroda Municipality, but the head works at Ajwa, Asoj and Pratappura, the filter beds at Nimetha and the mains outside the municipal limits are a charge of the department. These were maintained in working order at a cost of Rs. 59,797 during the year.

Drainage — The Baroda city drainage works including storm water drains, were maintained in good order. New drainage lines were laid in Fatehgunj and for the central jail at a cost of Rs. 1·40 lakhs. Drainage lines between Anastu Tekri and Raopura and for Shree Padmavatidevi Tuberculosis Hospital were being laid and the drainage in other parts of the town was improved.

Flood control — A scheme to control the flood waters of the Vishvamitri and utilise the excess water for irrigation, has been prepared and is now waiting to be examined by an expert.

Extensions — The extension of the town towards Alkapuri, Goyagate and Madhuvan and in other directions has been systematically planned. Land is acquired for housing societies and plots, open spaces and roads laid out.

(ii) District towns :

Water works — The schemes for increasing the water-supply of Navsari, Songadh, Bilimora, Beyt and Dhamraj were completed during the year. There were a number of other schemes which were in progress or under investigation :

(i) *Navsari* : The extension of the distributory system at a cost of Rs. 0·57 lakh is under consideration.

- (ii) *Amreli* : His Highness the Maharaja graciously gave a gift of Rs. 10·0 lakhs for water works. The work on the wells was in progress.
- (iii) *Pettad* : A scheme costing Rs. 9·5 lakhs has been prepared and is under consideration of the government.
- (iv) *Kalol* : A scheme, taking fully into consideration the town's rapidly growing population, has been prepared and is under government's consideration.
- (v) *Attadra* : The water works were completed at a cost of Rs. 12,300 and handed over to the village panchayat.
- (vi) *Parekha* : The water works were almost completed. The total cost was Rs. 22,000, of which Rs. 11,000 were during the year.

Schemes for water works at Dabhoi, Padra, Savli, Gandevi, Kheralu, Kadi and Unza are being prepared.

Drainage — Drainage works at the following towns were either in progress or completed during the year:—

- (i) *Bhadran* : The scheme was completed and the municipality has taken over the maintenance. A third of the house connections still remain to be done.
- (ii) *Nawsari* : The work on the main lines was completed and house connections were being done. The drainage line from Darbhanga Mills to Tavdi Bunder was complete and the work on branch lines was in progress. The total cost was Rs. 0·53 lakh.
- (iii) *Dharmaj* : The difficulty in obtaining materials, such as hume pipes, has delayed the progress of the work.
- (iv) *Sojitra* : As in the case of Dharmaj the progress has been delayed.
- (v) *Amreli* : Two schemes, one for underground drainage costing Rs. 17·45 lakhs or, in the alternative, the other for surface drainage at a cost of Rs. 3·21 lakhs have been prepared and were under consideration of the government.

Schemes for drainage for Pettad, Dabhoi, Karjan, Savli, Padra, Sidhpur, Kalol and Vijapur were under consideration.

Extensions— Considerable progress was made, during the year, in town extension schemes for district towns. The schemes for Shinor and Sojitra were sanctioned, the layout plans for the extensions in Mehsana, Visnagar, Vadnagar, Vijapur, Sidhpur, Dharmaj and Petlad were approved by the government, the scheme for Amreli is under consideration of the government and those for Padra, Dabhoi and Vaso were being prepared.

Recreation grounds — A ten years programme of providing recreation grounds at government cost in all towns with a population of 7,000 or more and several other important though smaller towns was sanctioned. Under the scheme, which is estimated to cost Rs. 4·09 lakhs, 46 towns and villages will have recreation grounds by 1954.

322. ROADS AND BRIDGES — The following roads were under construction during the year:—

- (i) *Bombay-Ahmedabad road* : The work of metalling the road constructed was in progress;
- (ii) *Padra-Dabhsa road* : Materials were being collected to complete the metalling of the road;
- (iii) *Mahurva-Anaval road (18 miles)* : The work was completed, the total cost was Rs. 3·62 lakhs;
- (iv) *Massa-Kotha road* : The earth work and cross drainage works were completed. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 13,108;
- (v) *Vyara-Unai road* : The metalling of parts of the road was completed;
- (vi) *Songadh-Otta road* : 16 miles in length is to be metalled. The work was in progress;
- (vii) *Kamrej-Nagod-Rundhawada road* : Owing to the scarcity of labour no progress could be made.

The following bridges were being constructed during the year:—

- (i) *High level bridge on Unchha river near Panej* : The work was completed.
- (ii) *Submersible bridge on Unchha river on the way to Handod* : The work could not proceed for want of materials.

323. FOREST ROADS — For the forests of the Navsari district, a programme of 207 miles of fair weather roads has been sanctioned. Of these, 14 miles were completed during the year and 26 miles were

in progress. So far 133 miles have been completed and 75 miles remain to be taken up. The expenditure on these roads is met from the forest cess and their maintenance is a charge on the forest department.

324. BUILDINGS — The following public buildings were completed or work on them was in progress, during the year :—

- (i) *Hospitals* : Extensions in Shree Padmavatidevi Tuberculosis Hospital and the General Hospital at Dwarka, 10 bed maternity wards at Dabhoi, Karjan, Dwarka and Kodinar, and 3 bed maternity wards at Nar and Balisana, veterinary dispensaries at Karjan and Kalol and a dispensary at Waglod;
- (ii) *Schools* : 10 vernacular schools — at Gorwa, Anli, Choranda, Mangrol, Meherwada, Kamana, Padusma, Gavadka, Gozaria, Ladol, and mixed schools at Kosumba and Chakala;

Military buildings : Additions to military lines at Dhari and additions and alterations to barracks of Baroda Lancers, 1st infantry and the 1st cavalry;

Other public buildings : Monuments of the Late Shrimant Fatehsingh Gaekwad, broadcasting studio, office building for civil supplies department, six grain stores, and police lines and additions to the central jail, extensions to the district jails at Amreli and Mehsana and additional police lines at Varnama, a rest house at Vyara and a first class chora at Patan and second class choras at Kholwad, Chhamichha and Fartikui.

325. FURNITURE FACTORY — The factory was run successfully during the year. It executed orders worth Rs. 1.16 lakhs as against Rs. 1.25 lakhs in the previous year.

326. EXPENDITURE — The total expenditure of the department was Rs. 48.36 lakhs as against Rs. 46.18 in the preceding year. Of these Rs. 16.5 lakhs were on new works, Rs. 12 lakhs on repairs, Rs. 2.0 lakhs on remunerative works, Rs. 3.4 lakhs on establishment and Rs. 11.8 lakhs were deposit contributions.

CHAPTER XXV

STATE RAILWAYS

327. THE STATE RAILWAYS :— The State owned 795 miles of railways, including Bodeli - Chota Udaipur Railway of which 21 miles were broad gauge, 346 miles metre gauge and 428 miles narrow gauge. The capital invested in the railways at the end of the year was Rs. 589 lakhs.

The railways mainly consist of three systems : (i) The net work of narrow gauge railways in the Baroda district : 278 miles, (ii) the net work of metre gauge lines in the Mehsana district : 255 miles, and (iii) isolated sections serving different areas of the State.

The details of these railways are given below :—

	Miles	Capital invested Rs. in lakhs
NARROW GAUGE		
Railways in the Baroda district	278
Broach - Jambusar	72·38
Kosamba - Umarpada (Navsari dist.)	...	38·15
Bilimora - Waghai (.. ..)	...	39·0
METRE GAUGE		
Railways in the Mehsana district	255
Khijadia - Dhari (Amreli dist.)	...	38
Prachi Road - Kodinar (.. ..)	...	16
Okha Railway	37
BROAD GAUGE		
Anand - Tarapur (Baroda dist.)	21·42
		14·6

Of these railways the Anand - Tarapur Railway is managed by the Government of India Railway and the Okha Railway by the Jamnagar Dwarka Railway. The remaining 737 miles are worked by the State itself.

328. THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE RAILWAYS :— The improvement in the earnings of the railways, which has been a feature of

the last 4 years was maintained on all sections, during the year. The gross earnings amounted to Rs. 116.7 lakhs as against Rs. 101.5 lakhs in the preceding year, an improvement of 14.9 per cent.

The working expenses excluding contribution to depreciation fund were Rs. 47.4 lakhs as against Rs. 38.0 lakhs in the previous year. The increase of Rs. 9.3 lakhs was due to high cost of railway materials and stores, improvement in grades and increase in dearness allowance.

The net earnings amounted to Rs. 62.8 lakhs as against Rs. 57.0 lakhs and the return on capital was 10.66 per cent as against 9.63 per cent in the previous year.

In the following statement the financial details of the working of the railways for 1944-45 and 1943-44 are given separately. A comparison with the figures for the year 1939 will indicate the extent to which railways have been affected by the war.

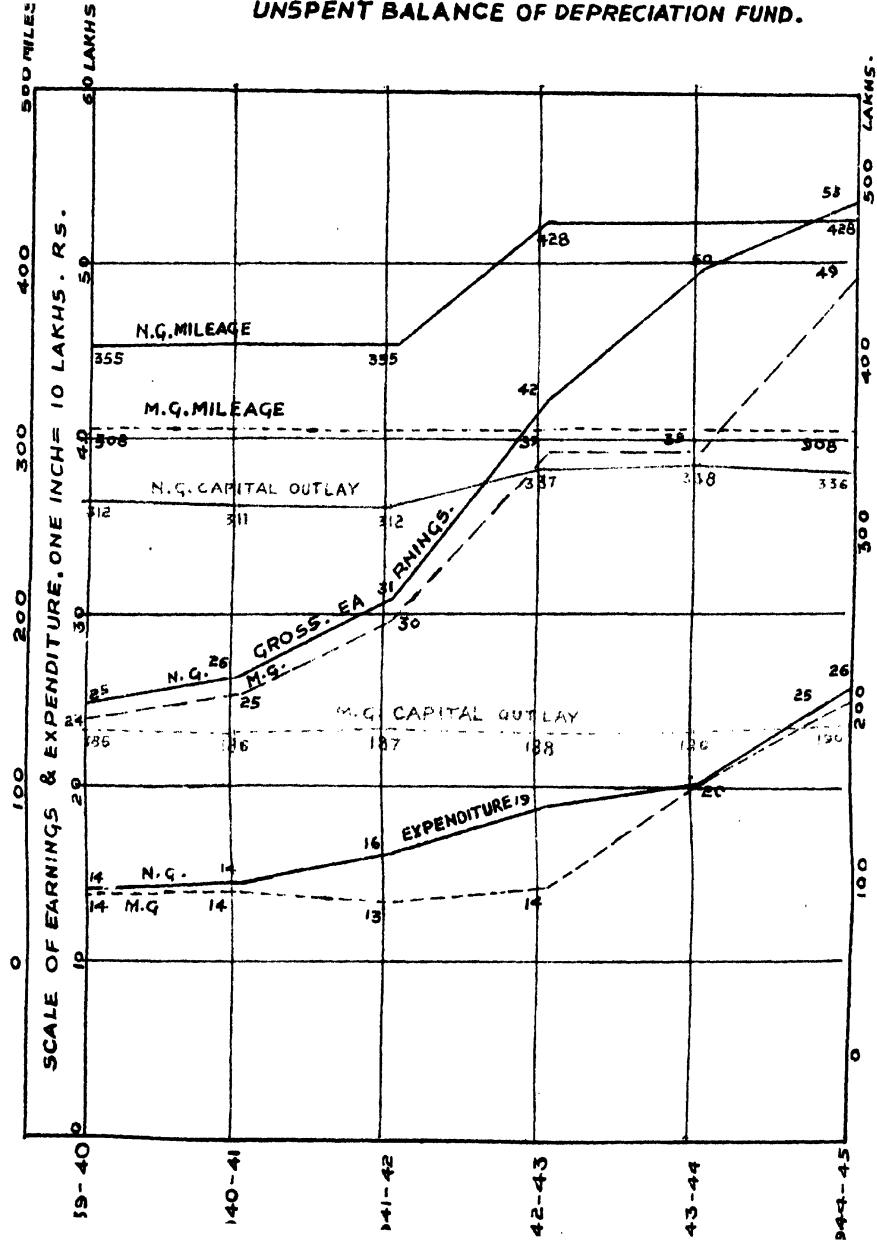
Year	Gross earnings	Expenditure	Net earnings	Working percentage	Percentage of return on capital	Working expenses per mile
NARROW GAUGE SYSTEM						
1939 ...	23.83	16.64	7.11	69.81	2.31	4,677
1944 ...	44.00	19.59	24.41	44.53	7.76	5,508
1945 ...	48.47	23.58	24.89	48.64	8.01	6,623
(Broach Jambusar section)						
1944 ...	5.90	2.50	3.40	42.36	14.10	3,456
1945 ...	5.28	3.06	2.22	58.04	9.15	4,238
METRE GAUGE SYSTEM						
1939 ...	24.14	15.26	8.88	63.21	4.75	4,944
1944 ...	39.65	16.95	22.70	42.75	11.94	5,496
1945 ...	49.44	20.58	28.86	41.62	15.14	6,671
(Okha section)						
1939 ...	3.42	2.00	1.42	58.53	3.33	5,373
1944 ...	6.82	2.66	4.16	38.96	8.54	7,144
1945 ...	7.71	3.56	4.15	46.14	8.50	9,563
BROAD GAUGE SYSTEM						
1939 ...	4.40	2.40	2.00	54.51	13.71	11,206
1944 ...	5.16	2.80	2.36	54.36	16.13	13,097
1945 ...	5.79	3.09	2.70	53.46	18.44	14,444

329. DEPRECIATION FUND :— The contribution to the depreciation fund is calculated at the rate of 1.25 per cent increased to 1.66 per cent from 1945-46, on the capital at charge at the end of the previous year. On this basis the contribution made to the fund in 1944-45 was Rs. 6.47 lakhs. The expenditure from the fund was Rs. 10.66

MILEAGE, CAPITAL OUTLAY, GROSS EARNINGS & WORKING EXPENDITURE.

NOTE :-

(1) THE EXPENDITURE DOES NOT INCLUDE
UNSPENT BALANCE OF DEPRECIATION FUND.



lakhs, so that fund decreased from Rs. 32.90 lakhs to Rs. 28.71 lakhs. The position of the depreciation fund at the end of the year is shown below :—

(*Figures in lakhs of rupees*)

Particulars	Narrow gauge	Metre gauge	Broach-Jambusar Railway
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Balance on 31st July 1944 ...	27.42	5.33	0.15
Contribution during 1944-45...	3.80	2.37	0.30
	31.22	7.70	0.45
Expenditure during 1944-45...	3.25	7.18	0.23
Balance on 31-7-1945 ...	27.97	0.52	0.22

330. RESERVE FUND :— In addition to the depreciation fund there is the railway reserve fund which is credited with the surplus of net earnings after deducting interest on the capital outlay at 4 per cent. This fund is intended

- (i) to meet the deficiency of gross earnings to defray working expenses, should such a contingency arise any year, and
- (ii) to provide funds for further capital expenditure.

The balance in the fund at the end of the year was Rs. 115.60 lakhs, exclusive of Anand-Tarapur and Okha railways, as against Rs. 80.69 lakhs at the end of the previous year.

331. IMPORTANT WORKS — A number of important works for the comfort of passengers and the improvement of the railways were undertaken during the year. Extra water ways were provided, banks raised, bridges remodelled and other works undertaken on Kalol-Becharaji and Mehsana-Taranga Hill sections, and Prachi Road-Kodinar railways. The permanent way was improved by replacing the existing rails with 50 lbs. rails on the Kadi-Kalol section.

332. TRAFFIC — There was an appreciable increase over the figures of the preceding year on the narrow gauge sections in coaching and traffic and on the metre gauge railways both in coaching and goods traffic. On both railways systems the traffic as well as the earnings have doubled since 1939-40.

(*000 omitted*)

Railway	Year	Coaching		Goods		Miscellaneous earnings
		Passengers	Earnings	Tons	Earnings	
Narrow-gauge	1939-40*	30,30	11,14	4,05	12,46	1.41
	1943-44	45,32	22,03	7,25	25,70	2.18
	1944-45	62,27	25,52	6,49	26,00	2.23
Metre-gauge	1939-40	44,05	14,50	4,39	8,93	0.47
	1943-44	68,03	24,22	6,45	29,63	0.99
	1944-45	82,11	29,63	7,39	18,97	0.83

*Broach Jambusar earnings are not included in these figures.

The following table gives details of the cotton traffic, which forms the principle item of goods traffic :—

Railway	Year	Number of bales		Wagon loads of unpressed cotton
		full pressed	half pressed	
Narrow gauge	... 1943-44	1,54,900	22,900	96
	1944-45	59,900	10,600	53
	1939-40: [*]	1,26,700	20,500	1,000
Metre gauge	... 1943-44	64,600	2,000	1,200
	1944-45	1,80,400	2,800	860
	1939-40	36,900	...	156

* Excluding Breach Jambusar railway traffic.

333. WORKERS STRIKE — To press their demands for higher grades, increased dearness allowance and for cheaper grain, the workshop staff of Goyagate and the open line staff struck work on the 8th February 1945, practically paralysing the railway services for a time. However, with the assistance of staff requisitioned from the B. B. and C. I. and the Bhavnagar State Railways, skeleton services were maintained on the more important lines. All negotiations failed till His Highness the Maharaja sent a personal message advising them to resume duty and assuring them that he would personally look into their grievances. The men resumed work on the 16th February.

334. DAMAGE CAUSED BY RAIN — The abnormally heavy rains in June 1945 caused breaches on the Prachi Road-Kodinar section. Repairs were taken in hand imminately but the newly completed earth-works were again washed away by the heavy rains which fell on the 7th and 14th July. Repairs were, therefore, suspended and the line closed till the end of July. The service between Kodinar-Ghatwad was resumed on the 1st August and over the rest of the line a month later.

335. WAGON POOL — The metre gauge wagon pool introduced by the Railway Board for metre gauge railways in 1939, continued in operation. It now has been made permanent.

336. RAIL-CUM-SEA SERVICE — The rail-cum-sea route service via Broach and Kavi Bunder for traffic to and from Kathiawar and Bombay was in operation during the busy season but as usual had to be closed for the monsoon.

337. RAIL-ROAD COMPETITION — This has almost disappeared due to the rationing of petrol. The motor bus services organised by the road-rail competition department, however, continued to function satisfactorily.

338. LOCAL AGENTS AT FLAG STATIONS — Local agents were working at 17 flag stations. The system has worked well and, apart from the convenience to the public, the earnings at these stations have improved.

339. TICKETLESS TRAVEL — Measures are being constantly taken to improve the system of ticket examination. Surprise squad checking system has replaced the crew system, which continues only on isolated sections. The check over ticketless travel is effective.

340. MEDICAL SERVICE — Medical assistance for employees is provided at railway dispensaries at all important railway centres; Goyagate, Dabhoi, Samni and Mehsana. For the staff on isolated lines special arrangements for attendance have been made with the medical department. During the year, 18,000 employees or their family members took advantage of these facilities.

341. SANITARY COMMITTEES — Sanitary committees have been appointed at most of the important stations both on the narrow gauge and metre gauge sections. They have been doing useful work.

342. RECREATION FOR STAFF — The railway institutes at Goya-gate, Baroda station and Dabhoi continued to function satisfactorily. The institutes are managed by committees elected annually by the members.

343. CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETY — The society has been rendering useful financial assistance to its members for the last twenty-three years. There were 1,260 members as against 1,202 in the preceding year. They held 12,885 shares as against 11,825 in the previous year. The working capital was Rs. 1·00 lakh and the net profit for the year Rs. 3,367.

344. COLLECTION OF TERMINAL TAX — Terminal tax on goods and parcel traffic collected by the railway on behalf of the Baroda municipality at Goya Gate and Vishwanitri stations and for the Petlad municipality at Petlad station amounted to Rs. 1·42 lakhs and Rs. 1,369 respectively.

CHAPTER XXVI

EDUCATION

345. GENERAL PROGRESS — Satisfactory progress was maintained in all the branches of education and important measures of reorganisation to improve the quality and extend the facilities available were adopted by the government.

Medical and engineering colleges in Baroda city, affiliated to Bombay University, have been sanctioned by the government, and preparation for their opening are well advanced.

The keen desire for higher education is reflected in the number of donations for arts colleges. S. B. Garda College teaching upto the intermediate class was started at Navsari from June 1945; a donation of Rs. 4 lakhs was received for a college at Vishnagar; Petlad has raised funds for a college there; and a college for Anreli is under consideration; soon all the four districts of the State will have colleges of their own.

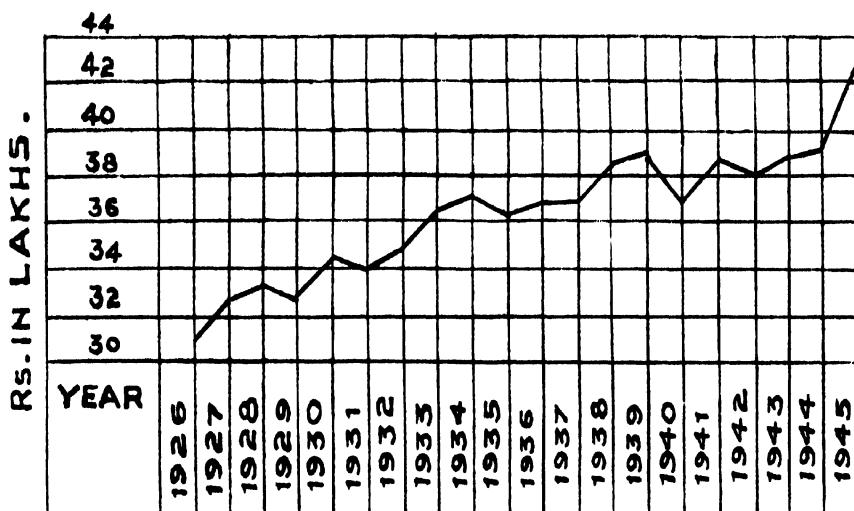
Important steps were taken to make adult literacy campaign more effective. With the object of enlisting the co-operation of educated men and women adult literacy associations have been formed in all the municipal towns and entrusted with the duty to organising and conducting literacy classes. The scale of grants and bonus to workers in these classes have also been revised and brought upto the standard prevailing in the Bombay Presidency. A monthly magazine specially meant for the new adult literates has been started.

To ensure reasonable pay and offer security of tenure rules based on the recommendations of the Central Advisory Committee of Education have been sanctioned by the government for teachers of government and private secondary schools.

In accordance with the Government of India scheme to send students abroad for technical training and studies, a number of students are to be deputed and arrangements have been made for them.

The department has completed a ten year programme of post war development and re-organisation. It envisages a very considerable extension of education in all the stages, specially in primary and technical education.

DIAGRAM SHOWING INCREASE IN EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURE



346. SCHOLARSHIPS — The State has a fairly comprehensive scheme of scholarships especially for the backward and poor communities. In the college, besides merit and other special scholarships, there are 28 scholarships for students of backward communities and 10 per cent of the students are given freeships. Of these, ten are for Muslims and ten for the scheduled classes. In the Kalabhavan, there are 64 government scholarships of the value of Rs. 8,185 per year, of which 22 are for backward classes and 30 for artisans. For medical studies there are five scholarships, two for agriculture, two for veterinary and one for commerce and economics. In secondary schools, there are government scholarships worth Rs. 18,017 a year. Besides this, 20 per cent students in all secondary schools are free and there are additional freeships for Muslims and backward classes. To encourage education of girls, 25 to 45 per cent, varying with the district, of the girls studying in secondary schools are awarded freeship.

347. EDUCATION OF THE ROYAL CHILDREN — The Motibagh school is organised with senior, junior and kindergarten classes. The work of the senior class is entrusted to Mr. Young who is tutor to Shrimant Yuvaraj. Shrimant Yuvaraj and Shrimant Akkaraje are now studying the course of the fifth standard English.

Shrimant Yuvaraj takes a keen interest in tennis and cricket. He took part in a number of excursions and was deputed by His Highness to attend several State functions. Shrimant Sarla Raje is in junior class I and Shrimant Vasundhara Raje in junior class II; and Shrimant Ranjitsingh Raje, Shrimant Lalita Raje and Shrimant Sangramsinh Raje in the Montessori class. The pupils made satisfactory progress.

Her Highness the Maharani Shantadevi takes a keen interest in the education of her children and several times visited the school.

348. INSTITUTIONS — There were 2,563 primary schools in the State, of which 2,424 were government and 139 aided schools. These had on the register 2,80,031 pupils or 9.8 per cent of the population of school-going age.

The number of secondary schools was 171—45 high schools and 126 A. V. schools, with 34,790 pupils. Of these, 17 high schools and 24 A. V. schools were government institutions.

University education is provided in the Baroda College, the Pratapsinh College of Commerce and Economics, and the Secondary Teachers' Training College. There were 2,034 students in these colleges. The Garda Arts College is a private institution receiving grant from government. It had 91 students on the roll.

Technical education is imparted at the Kalabhavan and the vocational high school at Baroda, the district industrial schools

at Amreli and Patan and the J. N. Tata Hunnershala at Navsari. There were altogether 567 students in these institutions.

For the training of teachers, the State maintains a college for secondary teachers and two training schools for primary teachers. In the former there were 96 students and in the latter 638.

Besides these, there were 5 music schools, 7 Sanskrit schools, 2 schools for defectives and 20 boarding houses for the depressed and backward communities. There are 49 suchs pecial institutions, with 2,130 pupils attending them, of which 458 were girls.

I. University Education

349. THE BARODA COLLEGE — The college founded in 1881, became a full fledged arts and science college affiliated to the University of Bombay. Since 1900, it has been recognised for posts graduate studies. Twenty-two members of the college staff are at present recogniscd as university teachers for post graduate instruction which is given in all important subjects, arts as well as science. The Diamond Jubilee Institute of Science, with its well equipped laboratories and an observatory was opened in 1936 and the entire science teaching was transferred to it. The number of students in the college was 1,421, as against 1,357 in the previous year. Of these, 179 were lady students. Additional classes were opened and lecturers appointed to meet the need of the additional students. The number of students belonging to the State was 1,240 or 87.3 per cent, compared to 88.5 per cent in the previous year, and 68 per cent five years ago. There were 105 students form other Indian States and 76 from British India

About 154 students were accommodated in the three separate hostels attached to the college.

There are 73 government scholarships of the value of Rs. 16,592 per year—39 for merit and 34 for classes backward in education—available for students of the college.

The examination results were on the whole satisfactory. Of the 29 students who appeared for their Masters degree 46 per cent passed, some obtaining a second class; of the 147 students who appeared for the B. A. degree 67 per cent passed, 3 obtaining a first class; of the 118 who appeared for the B. Sc. 79 per cent passed of whom 7 obtained a first class.

A number of papers and works of scientific and literary interests were published by members of the staff. Prof. C. V. Joshi published the third volume of Saddhamina—Pakasini and a catalogue of the Persian documents in the State archives. Dr. Avasare, Mr. M. L. Shah and Mr. C. J. Shah published the results of their research on iodo derivatives and Prof. D. V. Gogate and Upadhyaya on thermo chemical effects in liquid helium.

The following table shows the receipts and expenditure of the college and the average net cost per each pupil during the last three years:—

Year		Expenditure	Receipts	Net cost per pupil
<i>(in lakhs of rupees)</i>				
1944-45	2.10	1.34
1943-44	2.08	1.25
1942-43	2.05	1.74

350. PRATAPSINH COLLEGE OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMICS — The college was started in June 1942 and has maintained satisfactory progress. The number of students was 581 as against 558 in the previous year. About 40 students were accommodated in the college hostel.

The college sent its first batch for B. Com. examination of the Bombay University in March 1945. Out of the 20 sent up, 7 were successful and one secured a second class. Of the 193 students sent up for Inter Com. examination, 83 or 43 per cent passed and 12 obtained a second class.

The total receipts and expenditure of the college during the year 1944-45 were Rs. 85,225 and Rs. 52,489 respectively.

351. SECONDARY TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE — The college was started in 1935. It has provision for the teaching of 75 graduate students, 60 diploma students and for research. The actual admissions however in June 1945 were 96. There were 65 candidates for B. T., 24 for T. D. and 7 for M. Ed. About 36 students are accommodated in the college hostel.

One research student was awarded the M. Ed. degree for his thesis on "Modern trends in vocational psychology and their bearing on education." Out of 71 students of the college who appeared at the B. T. examination 69 or 97.2 per cent passed and out of 21 students who appeared at the T. D. examination, 10 or 47.5 per cent passed.

The college continued to publish the Journal of Education and Psychology. The problem of post war reconstruction in education received considerable study and attention.

The total expenditure of the college, during the year, was Rs. 37,294 as against Rs. 36,777 and the receipt Rs. 24,222 as against Rs. 32,254 respectively in the previous year.

II. Secondary education

352. GENERAL — The policy of government is to encourage private bodies by giving grants-in-aid to open and maintain English schools and classes. The response has been encouraging.

Out of 45 high schools in the State, 28 are private institutions, and of the 126 A. V. schools, 92 are under private management. The government maintain two high schools and 3 A. V. schools for girls education. Besides, there are 4 private A. V. schools only for girls.

The number of pupils in secondary schools was 34,790 as against 30,724 in the previous year. Out of these 11,148 including 2,282 girls were in government schools, 17,220 including 525 girls in aided schools and 6,422 including 183 girls in other recognised institutions. The number of girls studying in secondary schools has been steadily increasing. It was 1,989 in 1938, 2,554 in 1940 and 3,990 in 1945.

353. GRANT-IN-AID INSTITUTIONS — The total number of schools and institutions that received grant-in-aid from government was 47—26 high schools and 21 A. V. schools. A special grant-in-aid of Rs. 720 was given to the manual training classes attached to the A. J. High School, Vaso, and the Kadi Sarva Vidyalaya High School. The total grant given to privately managed institutions during the year was Rs. 99,235 as against Rs. 78,819 in the previous year. The government have recently sanctioned Rs. 5 lakhs for assisting schools to equip their laboratories upto the standard required by the Bombay University.

354. BOARDING HOUSES — There are four hostels, maintained by government, attached to the Maharani Girls High School, Baroda, and to the high schools at Patan, Visnagar and Mehsana. Government bears the major portion of the expenditure of these hostels. Besides these, there were 9 private hostels. Government have discontinued giving grants-in-aid to such hostels, except in case of communities or areas which are educationally backward.

355. MATRICULATION RESULTS — The matriculation results of the Bombay University was 37 per cent pass. The average percentage of successful students for government high schools was 42, for private high schools 32 and for all high schools 37.

356. PHYSICAL TRAINING — Physical training has been made compulsory and now forms a part of the regular curriculum in all schools. For imparting intensive physical training to untrained teachers, several training centres were opened and camps organised during the year.

357. MANUAL TRAINING — The value of education through handicrafts is now recognised. Manual training and Sloyd classes have, therefore, been attached to the high schools at Mehsana, Patan, Visnagar, Padra, Petlad, Bhadran, Kathor, Gangadhara, Amreli and Dwarka. Students show considerable interest in the work.

358. EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS — The expenditure on secondary education during the year was Rs. 5.68 lakhs and the receipts Rs. 2.00 lakhs, as against Rs. 5.60 lakhs and Rs. 2.08 lakhs respectively in the preceding year.

Primary Education

359. SCHOOLS AND PUPILS — As a result of the efforts of the department to extend facilities for higher primary education, the number of government schools has been steadily increasing. Fifty new higher primary schools were opened during the year, and the total number of government primary schools is now 2,563. Besides these there were 139 private schools, with 9,869 pupils; an increase of 17 schools during the year.

The increase in the number of pupils has also been maintained. There were 2,80,031 pupils in government primary schools as against 2,76,245 in the preceding year. Of these 1.62 lakhs were boys and 1.18 lakhs girls. The percentage of boys and girls under instruction to the total male and female population was 10.9 and 8.5 as against 10.8 and 8.4 respectively in the previous year.

The total number of students attending primary schools formed 77.1 per cent as against 78.5 per cent of the population of school going age in the previous year. The drop in attendance is due to the suspension of the recovery of compulsory fines in some districts of the State because of the failure of monsoon.

360. WASTAGE AND STAGNATION — The measures adopted by the department to reduce wastage and stagnation are constantly reviewed. These measures relate to the enrolment of children of school going age in the beginning of each year, securing regular attendance, improvement in the training of teachers, facilities and scholarships for training women teachers, bonus and special promotions to encourage good teaching, improvement of schools by amalgamation of single teacher schools with larger schools of the neighbourhood and raising the quality and frequency of inspection. These measures have led to an improvement, but the evil does not readily yield to the measures adopted and during the last 5 years wastage and stagnation has decreased only by 0.8 per cent from 48.6 per cent to 47.8 per cent.

361. TRAINING OF TEACHERS — The efficiency of teaching depends on a large extent on the qualities and training of teachers. Steady

efforts have been made to train all primary school teachers and improve the training given. Admissions to the training schools have been increased from time to time and during the year the two schools had 638 teachers under training. The course has also been extended to two years for all teachers. As a result of these efforts there has been an improvement in the proportion of trained teachers and in their quality. Out of the total of 6,746 teachers in primary schools, 5,314 or 79·1 per cent were trained teachers; of the remaining 1,432 the majority were teachers with more than ten years' experience.

362. GIRLS' SCHOOLS — The total number of girls schools was 312, of which 303 were government and 9 private institutions. The number of girls attending these schools was 46,977. Besides these, there were 71,101 girls attending mixed schools. Thus, the total number of girls attending schools during the year was 1,18,078 as against 1,16,444 in the previous year, showing an increase of 1,634.

363. KINDERGARTEN SCHOOLS — The total number of kindergarten schools was 32 with 2,202 pupils. Of these, 27 with 1,677 pupils were private institutions. To encourage private efforts in this field, government have sanctioned an annual grant Rs. 3,200 and reduced the fee from Re. 1 to As. 8 per month.

364. EXPENDITURE — The expenditure on primary education was Rs. 24·09 lakhs as against Rs. 22·32 lakhs in the previous year.

Education of special classes and communities

365. BACKWARD CLASSES — The Antyaja, Raniparaj (forest tribes), Thakardas, Waghers, Muslims form, so far as education is concerned, the backward communities of the State. While the average literacy for the State is 22·6 per cent and the literacy among the advanced sections such as Brahmans, Patidars and Jains is 92 percent and 67 per cent, the percentage of literacy among these varies from 10per cent to 17 per cent; Antyaja 16·9 per cent, Raniparaj 13 per cent, Thakarda 11·2 per cent, Waghers 9·8 per cent. The Muslims though well advanced in literacy (30 per cent) are extremely backward in English education—1·8 per cent as against 16 per cent among the Jains.

The government are making every effort to assist these communities to raise the standard of education among them. They have opened special primary schools and appointed special deputy inspectors; they maintain a number of hostels and boarding schools; poor students are given freeships in all secondary schools and there are special freeships in the Kalabhaban and in the colleges and special scholarships in all government educational institutions. Yet poverty and the absence of a large number of workers among them, have largely prevented any marked improvement, specially in secondary and higher education.

366. THE ANTYAJA — Government have provided extensive facilities for the education of the Antyaja. Preference is given to students of this community for admission to all government educational institutions. Government supply books and other school requirements to the children free of charge. Thirty scholarships are awarded in primary and seventeen in secondary schools. Poor students are given free studentships in all government institutions. There are special scholarships in the Baroda College for Antyaja students. Antyaja boarding houses are maintained by government at Baroda, Patan and Amreli. These had 50, 26 and 12 boarders respectively during the year.

A sum of Rs. 15,000 was donated some years ago by Sheth Jugal Kishor Birla to encourage religious education among students of the depressed classes. From the income of this fund, preachers are engaged for propaganda work among this class, for exhorting them to reform their habits and educate themselves.

The number of government Antyaja schools was 64 with 4,075 (2,310 boys and 1,765 girls) pupils against 63 schools with 3,819 pupils in the previous year. There were also 5 private Antyaja schools with 125 pupils. Besides these, 18,050 Antyaja children were attending Gujarati and other mixed schools. There were 24 Antyaja boys in the colleges and 175 in secondary schools. In Kalabhavan there were 3 and in training schools 33. The total number of Antyaja pupils under instruction was 22,425 or 9.7 per cent to the total Antyaja population, as against 21,845 or 9.4 per cent in the previous year.

367. RANIPARAJ — The education of boys and girls of Raniparaj and other forest tribes living in sparsely populated places with hardly any centres of habitation, is a problem of peculiar difficulty. Compulsion had proved unsuccessful. As the schools were few and situated far from the residence of pupils, attendance was very poor and the teachers from the plains were not willing to work in these areas. After the first experience of compulsion, the Raniparaj area was exempted from the operation of the Compulsory Primary Education Act, and a scheme of grant-in-aid schools was introduced instead. The result was however not encouraging and in 1934 it was decided to reinforce compulsion.

For the benefit of boys belonging to Raniparaj areas, six government boarding houses are maintained at Songadh, Vyara, Mahuwa, Vankal, Anaval, Chokhawada and Amreli. The number of boarders in these boarding houses was 91, 100, 30, 50, 41, 30 and 49 or 391 in all. There is also a boarding house for girls at Songadh with 34 girls. Model farms are attached to the boarding houses at Songadh and Vyara for practical training in agriculture.

Candidates of this community are encouraged to join teachers training schools. Forty two students were studying in training schools, of whom 4 were men and 38 women.

There were 12,303 Raniparaj pupils under instruction in primary schools, 73 in secondary schools, 2 in technical schools and 4 in the Baroda College. Thus the total number of Raniparaj pupils under instruction was 12,424 or 3·3 per cent of the total Raniparaj population. This does not show any improvement over figures of the preceding two years.

368. MUSLIMS — The number of government Urdu schools was 64 with 7,963 pupils (5,179 boys and 2,784 girls) as against 68 schools with 8,048 pupils in the previous year. There were 16 private Urdu schools with 1,880 pupils as against 17 schools with 1,968 pupils in the previous year. On the whole the number of Urdu schools shows a decrease of 4 and of 173 pupils. Besides these, there were 12,576 Muslim pupils, studying in other primary schools. The total number of Muslim children under instruction was 24,321 or 10·8 as against 23,101 or 10·3 to the total Muslim population in the previous year which compares well with the average of 10·8 per cent for the State. But they are very backward in secondary, technical and higher education. With about 8 per cent population there should have been 2,800 students in secondary schools, 44 in technical schools and 168 in colleges. Actually, there are only 1,824 in secondary schools, 8 in technical schools, 21 in training schools, and 45 in colleges.

369. THE WAGHERS — The Wagheres are only a small community with a population of 6,700 and are almost entirely found in Okhamandal. They continued to receive special attention of the government. In the boarding house for Wagner boys at Dwarka, they are given manual training at the workshops, attached to the institution. The number of boarders at the end of the year was 56. Special scholarships are sanctioned for them in the Kalabhavan and the Baroda College.

370. THAKARDAS — The boarding schools for the Thakardas of the Mehsana district which had been opened in 1936 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of His Highness the late Maharaja has been reorganised on lines which promises to become a model for similar institutions. The school aims primarily at three things, viz. :—

- (i) to teach good agriculture,
- (ii) to instil among the boys "the will to live better", and
- (iii) to train leaders.

The school is managed by the agriculture department and fuller details will be found in the chapter on agriculture.

371. SCHOOLS FOR DEAF AND BLIND AND ORPHANAGES — There are two schools in the State for the education of the deaf, mute and the blind,, one at Baroda, and the other at Mehsana, with 29 and 57 pupils as against 30 and 48 respectively in the previous year. The pupils are taught drawing, tailoring, carpentry, wood-carving, cane work, tape weaving and music, besides reading and writing, with a view to make them self-supporting and useful to society. The total expenditure incurred on these institutions was Rs. 18,443 as against Rs. 16,151 in the preceding year.

The orphanage at Amreli had 15 inmates as against 13 in the previous year. Most of them attend the Amreli industrial school. There is also a special class for tailoring.

Training of Teachers

372. TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS — For the training of primary school teachers government maintain separate training schools for men and women. In the school for men a third of the total candidates and in the school for women, all the candidates get stipends of Rs. 10 per month.

In the school for men, the number of students was 369 as against 374 in the previous year. Of these 229 students were living in the school hostels.

In the school for women, there were 269 students as against 287 in the previous year. Of these 118 were accommodated in the hostel.

The total expenditure on these institutions was Rs. 64,554 as against Rs. 56,884 in the previous year.

Technical education

373. THE KALABHAVAN — The central polytechnic institute known as Kalabhavan was established in 1890. The work of the institute is divided into 9 different departments of study each under a qualified head.

The institute offers diploma and certificate course and intermediate industrial school course. Instruction in diploma courses is imparted in English while in other two courses it is given in Gujarati.

The number of students attending the Kalabhavan in each of the different departments was as follows :—

Branch of Study	Number of students in		
	1944-45	1943-44	1942-43
Mechanical engineering	100	102	104
Electrical ..	77	79	79
Civil ..	60	74	76
Chemical technology	107	115	93
Weaving	63	68	66
Drawing and painting	21	28	31
Photography and process work			
Architecture	25	46	47
Intermediate industrial classes	16	19	19
Total	469	531	515

The course in commerce was discontinued.

The number of Baroda State students studying in the Kalabhavan has steadily risen from 20 per cent in 1919 to 67 per cent in 1940-41 and 59 per cent in 1944-45.

The Kalabhavan workshop is run as a semi-commercial concern. The value of the work done in the workshop was Rs. 56,424 and the profit Rs. 12,257 as against Rs. 59,000 and Rs. 11,000 respectively in the previous year.

The total expenditure was Rs. 1.43 lakhs as against Rs. 1.39 lakhs in the previous year. The total income was to Rs. 0.32 lakhs as against Rs. 0.29 lakhs in the previous year. The net expenditure per student was Rs. 235 per year.

374. DISTRICT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS — The school at Amreli taught carpentry, weaving and tailoring and was fairly successful. There were 55 students in the school. The total expenditure was Rs. 10,862 as against Rs. 9,602 in the preceding year.

The Sheth Punamchand Kotawala Industrial school at Patan offers industrial courses in turning, fitting, smithy, carpentry and a wiremen's course. There were 25 students in the school. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 8,012 as against Rs. 7,031, in the preceding year.

The J. N. Tata Hunnershala at Navsari offered course in mechanical engineering. The school is to be wound up in 1946 as a technical institute is to be opened in its place.

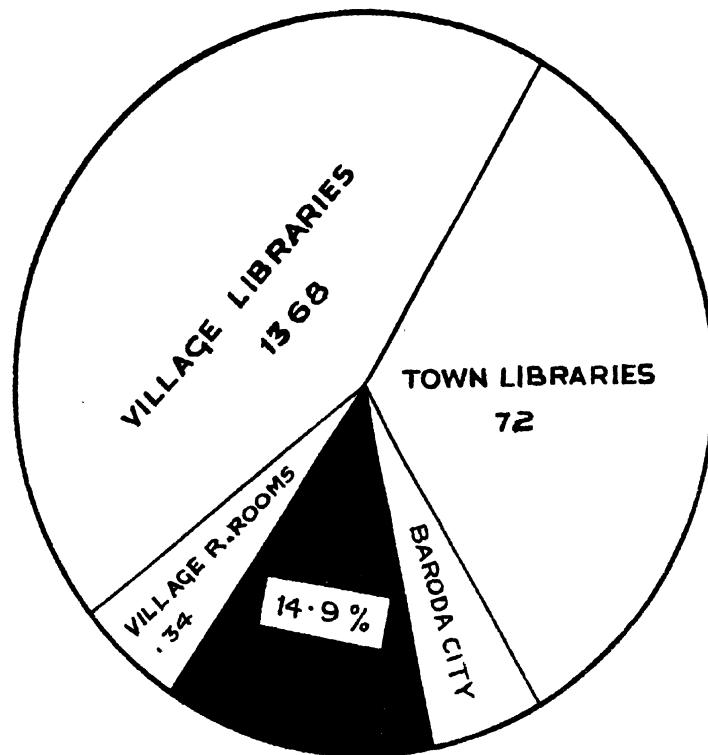
Libraries

375. THE CENTRAL LIBRARY — The department is organised into two sections :

- (i) the central library for Baroda City, and
- (ii) the district library branch including the travelling libraries for the rest of the State.

The Central Library is a free lending as well as a reference library entirely financed by the State. It has a complete collection of Gujarati books and the collection of Marathi books is nearing completion and already forms the largest and the most complete collection of books in these languages. The total number of books in the library was 1,79,232 of which 3,968 were added during the year. Of these, 56,744 were Gujarati, 38,980 Marathi and 83,508 English. During the year 1,18,518 books were circulated as against 1,09,407 in the preceding year. The number of readers was 3,501 as against 3,882 in the previous year.

POPULATION SERVED BY LIBRARIES & READING ROOMS.



POPULATION SERVED BY LIBRARIES

" NOT " "

TOTAL POPULATION **28,55,010.**

" " SERVED 24,22,990. 85.1%

" " NOT " 4,32,020. 14.9%

TOWN " " " 8,13,681. 100. %

VILLAGE " " " 16,09,309. 80. %

" " NOT " 4,32,020. 20 %

The number of books circulated through the mahila (women's) library was 11,882 as against 8,227 and the number of readers was 683 as against 588 in the previous year.

The library possesses a fine children's section and playroom. The number of children who took advantage of it was 33,749 as against 37,461 in the preceding year. The daily attendance was 150·3.

About 50 readers used the reference department every day.

376. DISTRICT LIBRARIES — The following table shows the number of libraries in the State :—

Year	Town	Libraries			Reading rooms		Total
		village	women	children	towns	villages	
1944-45	72	1,368	21	13	6	34	1,514
1943-44	69	1,348	21	13	4	51	1,506
1942-43	26	1,351	21	13	2	71	1,504

Twenty reading rooms were converted into village libraries during the year. One hundred and eighty two libraries have their own buildings.

The following statement gives some details about these libraries :—

Year	Stock	Circulation	Readers
1943-44	9,70,741	9,21,688	2,35,472
1944-45	8,36,397	7,90,352	2,02,353

In the travelling libraries section there were 29,774 books. The section circulated 17,877 books among 8,399 readers by sending out 345 boxes.

Inter-lending unions have been started in the towns to supplement the work of the lending library.

Much attention is being devoted to strengthen the movement and to improving the library service. The principal weakness of the movement is the disproportionate amount spent on newspapers to the neglect of books. Persistent propaganda has resulted in improvement in this respect. A system of co-operative budgets has been introduced so that small amounts for book purchase may cover as wide a field as possible.

377. LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS — A concomitant to the district library movement is the library association and the co-operative society of libraries. The association assists in inspecting libraries, organising training classes for librarians and holding library conferences.

It publishes a monthly journal "Pustakalaya" relating to libraries and containing lists to guide libraries and readers in the selection of books. It has undertaken the collection of folk songs with the help of the libraries. It organised training classes at different centres. The institution receives an annual grant of Rs. 1,200 from government.

The co-operative society, the Pustakalaya Sahayak Sahakari Mandal has been established for the purpose of helping the libraries to get books, periodicals and other requisites at reduced prices. It has a share capital of Rs. 50,000 and most of the village libraries have invested their reserve funds with it.

378. EXPENDITURE — The expenditure of the library department amounted to Rs. 91,471 as against Rs. 86,171 in the previous year.

Physical education and scout organization

379. COMPULSORY PHYSICAL EDUCATION — Physical education is compulsory in the whole State since 1940 and physical training according to prescribed syllabus is imparted in all primary and secondary schools by trained teachers.

To provide trained teachers for the effective working of this scheme, training classes are conducted at various centres in the training schools for men and women and the S. T. T. College. In these classes 243 teachers were trained during the year. The total number of teachers trained so far is 4,221.

380. SCOUT AND GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT — The scout movement has been in existence for the last 25 years and is yearly gaining support from the public. During the year, there were 106 troops and 454 cub packs with 15,790 scouts and cubs as against 19,526 in the preceding year.

Training camps for scouts were held in four different districts. Camps for cubs and scout masters were also held at Kalol and Navsari.

The number of girl guides and blue birds was 2,106 as against 2,602 in the previous year. They rendered useful service in various conferences and social functions.

The expenditure during the year was Rs. 17,248 as against Rs. 16,486 in the previous year.

Promotion and preservation of arts and literature

Oriental Institute and its publications

381. (i) Oriental Institute : In the institute there were 13,984 manuscripts, and 13,543 printed books and 517 volumes were added during the year. There were 220 registered readers and 1,762 books were issued.

(ii) *Gaekwad's oriental series*: In this series 102 volumes have been published, 14 are in the press and 19 are in preparation. The important publications of the year were the two volumes – Kritikalpataru, one of the earliest law digests compiled by Laksmidhara, minister of King Govind Chandra of Kanuj (1110–1154 A. D.); and Grihastha Kanda and the Moksa Kanda, which have been edited by the distinguished scholar Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.

(iii) *Translation bureau*: The Translation bureau prepares and publishes four different series. The first two, Shri Sayaji Sahityamala and the Balajnanamala, seek to make the treasures of other peoples accessible to Gujarati knowing public through translations. For this purpose Rs. 2 lakhs were endowed by His Highness the late Maharaja Sayaji Rao III. The bureau has so far published 294 books in Sahityamala and 185 in Balajnanamala. In these two series 7 books were published during the year. The third series, the Gramvikas Mala, was started in 1941 to make good the dearth of good books in Gujarati dealing with problems of rural reconstruction and village uplift. The cost of its publication is borne by the Diamond Jubilee Trust. The books are distributed free to all village libraries. The fourth series, the Matusri Jamnabai Smarak Granthalaya deals with problems of women. It is published from the income of a fund dedicated to the memory of Matusri Jamnabai. In the Gramvikasmala 7 and in the Matusri Jamnabai Granthamala 2 books have so far been published.

The total expenditure of the Oriental Institute was to Rs. 36,715 as against Rs. 36,436 in the previous year.

Museum and picture gallery

382. Both the institutions were reorganised and their exhibits rearranged. Among the courts now completed are the Egypto-Babylonian, the Greco-Roman, the European and the Islamic. Important exhibits have been acquired for the institutions during the year, including a number of interesting modern Indian paintings and a collection from Harappa, which has been lent by the archaeological survey of India.

The total number of visitors to the two institutions during the year was 3,68,950 as against 3,87,880 in the previous year. Two educated ladies have been appointed to explain the exhibits to women visitors on the zenana day set apart for pardah ladies.

Exhibitions of reproductions of modern Indian art, France, the cultural centre of Europe, art and industry were held and several public lectures were arranged.

The total expenditure was Rs. 54,252 as against Rs. 39,369 in the previous year.

Archaeology

383. A number of monuments of archaeological and historical importance were taken under protection under the Ancient Monuments Act. Conservation work is under progress on the Jas malnathji temple at Asoda, the Hinglogi Mata temple at Khandosan, the Fateh Burj at Vyara and the Dvarkadhisha temple at Mul Dwarka.

The Sahasraling tank excavations were continued. Prehistoric excavations organised by the archaeological department of India and the Deccan College Research Institute were conducted at Langhnaj.

Twelve inscriptions were secured during the year. The most important of these belonging to the eighth and ninth centuries A. D. are found on the Buddhist stone images in the museum.

Memoir No. IV of the Shri Pratapsinha Maharaja Granthamala is under preparation.

The expenditure during the year was Rs. 13,285 as against Rs. 13,182 in preceding year.

Sanskrit learning

384. (i) *Shree Rajkiya Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya* : His Highness the late Maharaja Sayaji Rao III started this institution in 1915 for preparing purohits, puraniks, pandits and shastris, to meet the requirements of the modern society. Since then, advanced courses in several branches of Sanskrit learning have been organised, and a number of scholarships are given at the institution.

The institute has 24 classes with 145 students. Out of 125 students who appeared at the annual examination 70 were successful.

(ii) *District Sanskrit schools* : There are four government Sanskrit schools with 125 pupils; and five private Sanskrit schools with 165 pupils on roll.

(iii) *Shravannas dakshina examination* : Diplomas and titles conferred upon the candidates in the Shravannas dakshina examinations are valued all over India, and pandits from distant places appear at these examinations. During the year, 163 appeared and 120 passed as against 120 and 86 respectively in the previous year. To encourage Sanskrit learning prizes worth Rs. 5,000 are distributed to persons passing these examinations in different shastras.

The total expenditure on these institutions, amounted to Rs. 15,763 as against Rs. 9,875 in the previous year.

Indian Music

385. MUSIC SCHOOLS — There are besides the central school of Indian music at Baroda, 4 district music schools. The number of students in the school of Indian music at Baroda was 285. In the district music schools there were in Dabhoi 59, in Navsari 111, in Patan 45 and in Amreli 39 pupils. Music classes are attached to all the important primary and secondary schools. The number of students attending these classes are 4,113.

The total amount spent on music schools was Rs. 13,757 as against Rs. 12,205 in the previous year.

The Ayurvedic Mahavidyalaya

386. THE AYURVEDIC MAHAVIDYALAYA — The Ujamsi Pitambar Ayurvedic Mahavidyalaya at Patan started in 1922 is conducted on a grant-in-aid basis. It imparts instructions, both theoretical and practical, in ayurved, the course being of five years. Students are taught botany, anatomy, physiology, surgery and midwifery etc. on modern lines. Practical training is given at the dispensary run by the institute and a ward for indoor patients is also maintained. The diploma is recognised by the Government of Baroda for State service and is considered equivalent to a degree of Bombay University. There were 67 students under instruction and diplomas were granted to 10 students during the year.

CHAPTER XXVII

PUBLIC HEALTH

A. Medical relief

387. GENERAL—A programme for opening dispensaries in rural areas, so that no village may be more than five miles away from a dispensary was recently completed. For further development several measures have been adopted:

- (i) to increase the facilities now available for medical aid for women and children, a separate trust has been created associated with the name of Her Highness Maharani Shantadevi;
- (ii) an anti-malaria scheme formulated in co-operation with the district local board of Navsari for opening dispensaries and centres for the worst affected areas has been sanctioned;
- (iii) another scheme of opening dispensaries with public assistance in all talukas, with less than four dispensaries, has been adopted;
- (iv) medical practitioners and vaidyas are offered subsidies to induce them to settle in villages and give medical assistance to the people of that and surrounding villages.

388. MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS—There are in the State 126 medical institutions, hospitals and dispensaries, that is, one for every 22,659 persons. Five new dispensaries, for which donations had been offered, were sanctioned—for Kanisa in the Baroda district, Umarath in the Navsari district, and Kahoda, Soja and Balol in the Mehsana district. Five other dispensaries and eleven centres attached to these are to be opened in the Navsari, Gandevi and Palsana talukas of the Navsari district under the anti-malaria scheme. The dispensary at Kalol is to be converted into a general hospital and maternity home with twelve beds in each, for which a donation of a lakh of rupees was received. Maternity homes at Koyali, Kathor, Umita and Balol have been sanctioned by the Shree Maharani Shantadevi Trust. Subsidised ayurvedic dispensaries were started at Mota Ankadia in the Amreli district and Modhera in the Mehsana district. These measures, adopted during the year, will appreciably increase the medical facilities already available.

389. PATIENTS AND DISEASES — The facilities available were fully availed of. There are 919 beds in the hospitals of the State. The number of indoor patients was 16,544 as against 16,844 in the previous year and the daily average 622 as against 675. The number of outdoor patients decreased from 11.5 lakhs to 10.1 lakhs, the average daily number decreasing from 16,660 to 14,876. The number of surgical operations, major and minor, rose from 1,43,707 to 1,48,167. Besides this, the 6 subsidised ayurvedic dispensaries treated 21,500 patients during the year. The statistics of patients and diseases, for which they were treated, are given below :—

<i>(000 omitted)</i>					
Disease	1944-45	1943-44	Disease	1944-45	1943-44
of the skin	192	211	Malaria	217	259
.. eye	71	86	Tuberculosis	2.3	2.6
.. throat	49	83	Dyspepsia	38	40
.. ear	54	52	Diarrhoea	28	34
.. nose	13	9	Venereal diseases	5	6

390. MEDICAL RELIEF FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN — The extension of medical relief for women and children has been receiving constant attention of government. With the establishment of the Shri Maharani Shantadevi Trust, all efforts in this direction have been co-ordinated and have received a new impetus.

The trust received grants from the government, the Sayaji Rao III Memorial fund, contributions from district local boards and public donations. During the year the government sanctioned Rs. 3 lakhs a year for five years, which will go to form its reserve fund. The Memorial Fund contributed Rs. 10,000 and the district local boards of Baroda, Mehsana and Amreli and various municipalities Rs. 19,260. It received a donation of Rs. 31,000 for opening a maternity ward in Kathore.

The trust since its foundation in 1939 has established 24 maternity homes with 145 beds, 3 more have been constructed and will shortly be opened, 1 is under construction and 4, at Koyali, Kathore, Umita and Balol, were sanctioned during the year.

Of the 24 maternity homes working, 8 were in the Baroda district, 12 in the Mehsana district, 2 in the Amreli district and one each in the Navsari district and Okhamandal. The number of patients admitted was 2,838 as against 1,903 in the previous year, the number of ante-natal cases treated was 6,408 as against 5,015.

In the Baroda City there are three maternity wards attached to Shree Sayaji General Hospital and one to the Jamnabai dispensary.

The total number of patients at these wards during the year was 4,106 as 4,032 and the percentage of deaths to deliveries was 0.5 as against 0.3 in the previous year.

Besides this, maternity and child welfare work is done by Shree Maharani Chinnabai Maternity and Child Welfare League. The league's lady doctor examined 2,033 ante-natal cases, and 2,783 post-natal cases, and 22,503 children were treated in its three baby clinic centres.

Besides these maternity wards, there were 45 trained midwives. They attended 5,159 labour cases as against 2,813 in the previous year and 8,656 post-natal cases. The midwives attached to various maternity homes were also doing ante-natal and post-natal work.

These dais are trained in the class maintained out of the Victoria Memorial Fund at the Jamnabai dispensary. Five dais were trained during the year.

391. SHREE SAYAJI STATE GENERAL HOSPITAL — The central medical institution of the State is the Shree Sayaji State General Hospital. It is fully equipped and has special departments for bacteriology, radiology, dentistry, eye and midwifery, each in charge of a specialist and a gynaecological and children's wards.

In the hospital there are 326 beds. The average number of indoor patients per day was 297 as against an average of 282 in the previous year; the average number of outdoor patients was 766 per day as against an average of 910 in the previous year; the total daily attendance was thus 1,063. The number of major and minor operations performed was 4,140 and 45,275 respectively. In the x-ray department 19,943 patients were treated of whom 9,964 were indoor and 9,997 outdoor. The dental department treated 10,002 patients and the eye department performed 521 major operations. In the bacteriological department 20,310 specimens of pathological interest were examined and 8,061 injections given.

The total expenditure on the hospital was 3.61 lakhs as against 2.89 lakhs in the preceding year.

392. ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS MEASURES — Shree Padmavatidevi Tuberculosis Hospital and Sanatorium was opened by Her Highness the Maharani Shantadevi in 1943. It consists of a central administrative block with pathological laboratory, an x-ray room and an operation theatre. There is an open air theatre and avenues and sheltered walks have been laid. There are separate general wards, for men and women, and single and double room cottages. At present there is accommodation for 78 patients. A tuberculosis specialist has been appointed to be in charge.

During the year, 158 persons were admitted to the institution as against 243 in the previous year and 144 were discharged. Of those admitted 4·8 per cent were in the first stage of the disease, 5·8 per cent in the second stage and 88·4 per cent in the third stage. Most of the cases were of pulmonary tuberculosis. Besides this, 188 operations were performed. The x-ray department took 339 skiagrams and 2,261 screenings as against 76 and 1,381 respectively, in the preceding year.

The sanatorium and hospital receive a grant of Rs. 30,000 per year from the government and, over and above this, an annual grant of Rs. 3 lakhs has been sanctioned for the next five years. It also receives a contribution of Rs. 20,000 per year from Maharani Shantadevi Trust. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 1·66 lakhs as against Rs. 1·99 lakhs in the preceding year.

The anti-tuberculosis clinic opened in 1937 from the King George's thanks giving fund, continued its useful work of propaganda and treatment. During the year 872 new cases and contacts were examined and 1,600 home visits made.

393. OTHER INSTITUTIONS — The mental hospital had 111 patients as against 110 in the previous year.

The leper asylum treated 148 patients as against 188 in the previous year.

394. DISTRICT INSTITUTIONS — Excluding maternity homes, there are 115 medical institutions and dispensaries with 382 beds serving rural areas. The number of outdoor and indoor patients was 8,37,000 and 6,760 as against 9,60,000 and 7,100 in the previous year.

395. VILLAGE DISPENSARIES — In order that each village may have a stock of such medicines as are commonly used, a scheme was started in 1937-38 by which, with the help of contributions from the people and the government, village dispensaries may be started. The scheme has not progressed as satisfactorily as was expected but the number of such dispensaries has been increasing steadily. During the year the number rose to 338.

396. ANTI-RABIC TREATMENT — The number of patients who were given anti-rabic treatment at Baroda and at the three centres, opened at Patan, Navsari and Amreli during the previous year, was 1,083.

397. THE PATAN AYURVEDIC MAHAVIDYALAYA — This institution offers four years' courses and awards diplomas in ayurvedic medicine. It teaches anatomy, physiology, botany etc., on modern lines and also gives clinical training in the dispensary attached to the institute. There were 67 students under training and diplomas were awarded to 10 students.

398. REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS — During the year under report, 374 practitioners including doctors, vaidyas, hakims and others were registered as against 246 in the previous year.

399. INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY — During the year new junior red cross groups were organised in schools, making a total of 864. There were 10,388 boys and 2,502 girls enrolled in these, as against 4,171 boys and 981 girls in the preceding year.

Lectures on ambulance work, nursing, home hygiene, sanitation and care of the eye were delivered in the schools of the State. In all 614 candidates passed the examination in different subjects as compared to 620 in the previous year.

400. EXPENDITURE — The total expenditure of the department was Rs. 11.05 lakhs and income Rs. 1.47 lakhs. This does not include the expenditure incurred from Maharani Shantadevi Trust.

B. Public health

401. SANITATION — Sanitation forms the principal function of municipalities in towns and of panchayats in villages. The municipalities are assisted by sanitary committees consisting of municipal members and others. The village panchayats are guided by the district sanitary inspectors. The sanitary commissioner exercises a general supervision.

Out of 42 municipal towns in the State, 13 have protected water supply works. The total cost of these works amounted to Rs. 92.54 lakhs, of which the government grant was Rs. 75.86 lakhs. The steps taken for improving village water supplies are described in the chapter on local self government.

Three towns in the State — Baroda, Navsari and Bhadran — have underground drainage systems. Most towns have adequate conservancy staffs.

Sanitary surveys of all the important towns have been completed and programmes of improvements to be undertaken laid down.

Systematic steps are being taken to get manure heaps removed to a distance from village sites. In 70 villages suitable sites were acquired for the purpose during the year.

402. KOSAMBA HEALTH UNIT — To study problems relating to village sanitation, to educate the people and to introduce improvements, health units have been constituted for the villages under the Kosamba and Karjan rural reconstruction centres. The Kosamba unit which covers 30 villages is under a sanitary officer. A lady sub-assistant surgeon attends to ante-natal and post-natal cases. Similar units are being started in other places as well.

403. BIRTHS AND DEATHS — The registration of births and deaths is compulsory. The following table shows the number of births and deaths in the State:—

Year	Number of		Per mille of population	
	births	deaths	births	deaths
1942-43	1,02,118	71,356	35.8 25.0
1943-44	1,03,136	68,461	36.1 24.0
1944-45	97,294	70,320	34.1 24.6

Of the 97,000 births 50,000 were males and 47,000 females, of the 70,000 deaths, 37,000 were males and 33,000 females.

Although health conditions were not as good as in 1943-44, on account of malaria and the difficulty in obtaining quinine and other medicines, the ratio of births and deaths has steadily improved and is now 34.1 and 24.6 respectively.

404. INFANT MORTALITY — There were 13,890 deaths of infants under one year. The following table shows the ratio of infant mortality to 1,000 registered births in different parts of the State :—

District	Number of deaths of children under one year		Per mille of births	
	1944-45	1943-44	1944-45	1943-44
Baroda city 1,175	172.9	184.9
Baroda 4,049	151.0	149.1
Mehsana 4,822	124.1	116.6
Navsari 2,077	125.7	123.9
Amreli 1,459	180.2	158.5
Okhamandal 308	377.9	267.7

As usual Okhamandal recorded the highest and the Mehsana district the lowest infant mortality during the year.

405. CAUSES OF DEATH — The following statement shows the number of deaths from different causes :—

Disease	Number of deaths		Per mille of population	
	1944-45	1943-44	1944-45	1943-44
Fever	60,346 58,171	21.1	20.4
Plague
Cholera	165 1	0.05	.0003
Small-pox	228 173	.08	.06

Disease	Number of deaths		Per mille of population	
	1944-45	1943-44	1944-45	1943-44
Measles	...	211	245	'07
Dysentery and Diarrhoea	...	987	1,147	'3
Cough	...	1,300	1,336	'4
Pneumonia	...	420	502	'1
Consumption	...	605	649	'2
Typhoid	...	127	122	'04
Influenza	...	76	56	'02
Meningitis	...	16	17	'005
Diphtheria	...	18	30	'006
Injuries and accidents	...	407	481	'1
Other causes	...	5,414	5,531	1.9
Total	...	70,320	68,461	24.6
				24.0

The classification is not accurate as deaths from diseases with symptoms of fever are often registered under "fever" by the untrained registration staff.

406. VACCINATIONS — Vaccination and re-vaccination at the age of eight years or at the time of registering the names of children in schools for the first time is compulsory in the State. During the year, 1,87,000 persons were vaccinated as against 1,96,000 in the preceding year — 1,04,000 males and 83,000 females. The number of primary vaccinations was 95,770 as against 94,594 and of re-vaccination 1,01,161 as against 91,019 in the preceding year. The percentage of successful primary vaccinations was 95.9 and of re-vaccination 35.9. The high percentage of successful re-vaccinations shows the necessity of compulsory re-vaccination at the age of eight years.

The total expenditure on vaccination was Rs. 55,394 as against Rs. 51,625 in the preceding year. The average cost of each successful was as. 6.25 as against as. 5.75 in the previous year.

407. PREVENTION OF DISEASES — Anti-malaria measures were taken in the Baroda city, 16 other municipal towns and in 509 villages. The exceptionally heavy rains in Okhamandal brought in their wake a widespread epidemic of malaria, to control which a special officer was appointed and intensive measures taken. A survey of Anreli town was completed with a view to organise scientifically the anti-malaria measures being taken there at present. A scheme for anti-malaria measures in the worst affected parts of the Navsari district has been

formulated in co-operation with the district local board and 5 dispensaries and 11 centres attached to these are being opened there.

Anti-guinea-worm work was conducted in 51 villages of the Patan, Chanasma and Harij talukas of the Mehsana districts, and in 2 villages of the Sankheda taluka of the Baroda district.

During the year, 231 fresh cases of tuberculosis were registered in the municipal towns of which 162 cases were in Baroda city.

408. EPIDEMICS — The State was free from plague this year. The destruction of rats was, however, continued in Petlad, Dharmaj and Gandevi towns and Okha and other towns which are liable to plague.

There was an epidemic of cholera in 33 villages of the Baroda district and 403 cases were reported of which 152 were fatal. A few cases, some of which fatal, were also reported from the Navsari district. Measures to inoculate persons in the affected areas were promptly taken and 53,193 persons were inoculated.

Small pox cases were reported from all over the State, the number of cases reported being 420, of which 228 were fatal. There were 28 deaths in the Baroda city.

Of the 144 cases of measles, 61 were fatal. These were reported from 10 towns of the Baroda, Mehsana and Navsari districts. The proportion of deaths in Baroda city was extremely high — 42 deaths out of 43 cases reported.

There was an epidemic of typhoid in Baroda city — 157 cases being reported, of which 62 were fatal. There were 137 cases in 13 other towns, 18 of which were fatal.

A few cases of meningitis and influenza were reported from different towns of the State. No cases or deaths of diphtheria and leprosy were registered.

409. PROPAGANDA — The department carried on propaganda with the help of cinema and magic lantern shows, lectures and exhibitions. Shows were held in 20 places and health and baby-weeks in nine.

There are sanitary associations, in Navsari, Amreli, Patan and Petlad. They carry on propaganda, offer medical assistance and give help to expectant mothers.

410. PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY — The main function of the laboratory is in connection with the administration of the Food and Drugs Act which has been extended to the villages round about Baroda city to prevent adulteration of milk, ghee etc., and to several municipal towns. The laboratory examined 2,586 samples of milk and 201 of ghee received from municipalities, private parties and the civil supplies department. Of these 1,661 samples of milk and 71 of ghee were found adulterated.

CHAPTER XXVIII

POST WAR RECONSTRUCTION

411. During the last three years the Baroda Government, in common with the other administrations in India, have been working out plans for post war reconstruction, directed towards doubling the standard of life in ten years. Examined in broad outline, the development planned is based on nothing new. It is to a large extent the intensification of activities, which are already fully appreciated as essential for enriching the quality of life specially in villages; and Baroda is fortunate in that sixty years of regenerative efforts and achievements have laid the foundations of progress.

There are two factors, however, which are likely to slow down the pace.

The programme has to take account of some 6,000 square miles of areas recently attached to the State, in which the foundations of progress hardly exist; and secondly, the widely scattered formation of the State. Any major programme of improvement, like irrigation or communications, inevitably depends for its success on the co-operation of neighbouring States.

To survey the State's needs and resources the government appointed the following committees closely corresponding to those constituted by the Government of India :—

- (i) Re-settlement and re-employment committee;
- (ii) Transport, including railways committee;
- (iii) Post, telegraph, telephones and air communications;
- (iv) Electric power, water supply, irrigation etc;
- (v) Trade and industry;
- (vi) Agricultural policy committee;
- (vii) The disposals, contracts and government purchases committee (discontinued after a time.).

These committees began work in April 1943. Thereafter, to coordinate their work, a ministry of reconstruction was created from 1st of October 1944. As Baroda is placed, it was essential to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of leading industrialists, specially of western India, and for this purpose a Board of Industrial Advice was formed with Sir Homi Mehta as Chairman, Sir Sultan Chinoy, Sheth Tulsidas Kilachand, Sheth M. C. Ghia and the minister for post war

reconstruction as members. It was inaugurated by His Highness the Maharaja in January 1945.

The committees and departments have mostly completed plans for the first five to ten years. They are summarised below :—

I. EDUCATION — The ten years plan of the education department contemplates rounding off of the extensive system of education already existing, by establishing pre-primary schools, extending primary education to areas not yet served by schools, and offering greater diversity in secondary and higher education. The features of the programme which arrest attention are :—

- (a) *pre-primary education*: special training institutions and a school in every town with a population of 5,000 or more;
- (b) *Primary education*: The opening of new training institutions, construction of 1,000 school buildings, starting 110 agricultural bias schools and schools in 1,376 villages which have a population of less than 500.
- (c) *Secondary education*: opening of 60 new secondary schools, increased grants to private institutions, special library and laboratory grants.
- (d) *Technical education*: opening of 3 technical high schools. The reorganisation of the technical schools at Navsari and Pattan, the development of the Kalabhavan and Amreli industrial schools to technical high schools. The Kalabhavan is also being reorganised.
- (e) *Higher education*: New arts and science colleges in Visnagar and Navsari and medical and engineering colleges in Baroda.
- (f) *Physical education* : Provision of district organisers, playing grounds and district tournaments.

These schemes will require over ten years a capital expenditure of Rs. 99.8 lakhs and an increase in the recurring expenditure ranging from Rs. 1.95 lakhs in the first year to Rs. 14.20 lakhs in the tenth.

II. COMMUNICATIONS —

- (a) *Railways* : The State has already a highly developed railway system and there are few villages which cannot be reached on the railway. The future programme of extension, therefore, almost entirely limits itself to the needs of the attached areas. Exact surveys have not been undertaken, but from general indications of utility and future traffic 58 miles of narrow gauge railway, a new line in Baroda area and 24 miles in extensions on the metre gauge system of the Mehsana districts are probable. These will cost about Rs. 54 lakhs.

- (b) *Roads* : A very extensive system of roads which will double the existing mileage is planned, costing Rs. 440 lakhs (including cost of national highways) in the first five years. The programme consists of :

national highways	76 miles,
state	97 miles,
district roads "	520 miles,
village roads	593 miles.
Total	1,286

The standard of roads will be much higher than at present. Apart from the national highways, 32 miles will be concrete, 56 in asphalt, 920 macadam and 153 gravel surfaced. The upkeep of the national highways will devolve on the central government; the upkeep of the other roads will cost Rs. 8.9 lakhs per year. In the second five years, a further extension is planned by the construction 1,050 miles of road at a cost of Rs. 300 lakhs.

- (c) *Telegraph and telephones* : The present system of telephones is to be greatly expanded in the first 5 years, by the addition of commercial and non-commercial lines. The distant and separate districts such as Amreli and Okhamandal will be connected with Baroda by radio telephone and the other places by lines covering about 450 miles. The capital cost is estimated at Rs. 19 lakhs and the maintenance at Rs. 1.8 lakhs a year.

III. IRRIGATION --

- (a) *Major schemes* : Baroda State does not lend itself readily to the development of major irrigation schemes. Perennial rivers are few and the larger rivers within the State for the most part flow through deep gorges. Moreover, the multiplicity of claims on water rights of the numerous administrations which constitute Gujarat and Kathiawar, hinder schemes based on river storage. The State has in view, however, two major projects.

- (i) The Zankhari river project will cost about 1.35 lakhs and will irrigate 37,000 bighas, including 13,000 bighas of sugar cane. It is to be taken up in the first 5 years.
- (ii) The Sabarmati project is to be taken up in next five years. It will cost about Rs. 156 lakhs and will control 60,000 bighas.

(b) *Minor schemes:* Irrigation works : The other proposals for the first 5 years are for minor irrigation works on lesser rivers. The construction of new irrigation tanks and repairs of the many himayat tanks throughout the State and improved drainage at a total cost of Rs. 26 lakhs. These schemes will irrigate 22,000 additional bighas of land.

In the second five years plan, besides the Sabarmati project, minor schemes irrigating 20,000 bighas and the development of hydro electric power on the Sabarmati and the Zankhatri projects will be undertaken at a cost of 62 lakhs.

- (c) *Exploitation of sub-soil water supply :* This includes :—
- (i) the extension of tube well system in the Mehsana district under a grid system at a cost of 7 lakhs; and
 - (ii) Construction of open wells at government expense on farmers' private lands. This is in some ways the most promising and original scheme and under it 4,000 new wells irrigating 35,000 bighas will be sunk at a cost of Rs. 46 lakhs.

IV. AGRICULTURE — The development planned in this section is largely an intensification of the already intensive drive to improve agricultural and animal husbandry. The total gross cost of the five years scheme is Rs. 81 lakhs on capital and 56.7 lakhs recurring. Some of the more important directions of the proposed development are mentioned below:—

- (a) The conservation of the soil and rainfall by contour bunding particularly in areas of low rainfall, is of special importance and Rs. 5 lakhs have been set apart for expenditure on this.
- (b) *Extension of agricultural service :* An efficient and well trained agricultural service is essential. It is proposed to expand the existing agricultural institute to admit two years diploma training and to send men from the State to agricultural and veterinary colleges in India and abroad. This will cost about Rs. 10 lakhs.
- (c) *Veterinary :* There is a fairly wide spread veterinary service and this will be expanded and used for live stock and veterinary advancement. The capital expenditure on this section is estimated at Rs. 16.4 lakhs and the recurring Rs. 21.6 lakhs in the first 5 years.
- (d) *Mechanised farming :* Provision has been made for Rs. 5.5 lakhs,

- (e) *Rural reconstruction centres* : The aim of these centres is to develop in the villages "the will to live better". Progress must be all sided and, therefore, in these centres agriculture is closely linked to co-operation, medical relief, sanitation, education and cottage industries. The programme for the first 5 years is to open 12 new centres at a cost of Rs. 4.63 lakhs and a gross cost spread over 20 years of Rs. 26 lakhs. After 20 years the centres will be more or less locally financed. More centres will be opened in the second five years so that the total number of villages reached will be 800.
- (f) *Better farming associations* : For many years there have been in operation in the State better farming associations, working on lines recently suggested in the memorandum of the Imperial Council of Agriculture. A group of 20 to 25 villages are linked together to form units and 5 or 6 units form a zone carrying on agricultural extension work. The post war scheme visualizes :—
- (i) the increase of zones increasing the number of villages in close touch with the department from 400 to 1,200;
 - (ii) widening the services to include in addition to agriculture live stock and horticultures. This will cost Rs. 14.4 lakhs in the first 5 years. This service will be developed in subsequent years so that every village in the State comes under its operation. The development will cost about Rs. 10 lakhs per year.
- (g) *Study of the influence of tenures* : A study of the influence of the four different kinds of tenure: individual, co-operative, collective and state-farming on the welfare and productivity of the village is contemplated.

V. CO-OPERATION — Co-operative development has been in progress for several years but it touches only 11 per cent of the rural population. The chief objective of the post war period will be a more active drive in the areas in which co-operation has lagged behind. It is proposed to establish 585 new societies in such areas and to develop multipurpose societies each serving 4,000 – 5,000 people. The additional staff for auditing and propaganda will cost Rs. 3.25 lakhs in 5 years.

VI. FORESTRY — The post war programme seeks to raise the proportion of forests from 9 to 12 per cent in 20 years. The cost of surveys, training of men and increased staff will cost Rs. 30.25 lakhs during this period. The addition in revenue is expected to balance the

cost but even if it does not, the need for fuel and to equalise climate and above all to check soil erosion would justify these measures.

VII. FISHERIES — A programme covering the development of fish curing yards, power fishing with up-to-date equipment, more accurate biological studies at different points has been formulated. It will cost Rs. 4 lakhs in 5 years.

VIII. INDUSTRIES — The State proposes to initiate direct development through its own resources, and, where that is not possible, to support and encourage private industrialists through subsidies, loans and concessions. Of schemes of the first order, the most important is the erection of a two-unit ship building yard at Port Okha capable of constructing 4 ships annually of 8,000 tons each. This will cost Rs. 54 lakhs. Under the second, a careful survey has been made of the possibilities for expansion of various industries and of the facilities that will tempt capital to come to the State. The textile industry is already the most important industry in the State and the possibility of further expansion has been carefully studied. For such development it is well situated. It lies in an area growing cotton of a very high standard; textile auxiliaries, such as starch, desizing agents, bobbins, healds and reeds are manufactured locally; ginning facilities and railway communications are good, and labour skilled and unskilled is plentiful. Under the electric grid system power will be cheap and plentiful. Accordingly 10 to 12 new mills are proposed.

There are also possibilities in chemicals and oils. To investigate into other potentialities existing in the State, Sir Cyril Fox was invited to conduct a geological survey. His report suggests that there are possibilities of developing glass industry of a high order, ceramics and coloured cement.

In order to assist industrialists it is planned to establish industrial areas in Baroda, Kalol and Billimora, which will be provided with railway sidings, roads, electricity, water and labour housing facilities.

IX. ELECTRICITY — Under the post war scheme a reorganisation of the entire electric system is planned. Negotiations are in progress for taking power in bulk from the Bombay grid system from 1947 and in this case the Baroda plant will function as a stand by plant. Post war development is planned chiefly on power from this grid and its distribution to the various zones of the State in the course of 5 years.

The Baroda city conversion scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 30 lakhs and the several distribution schemes Rs. 40 lakhs. The power will cost 0.75 anna for industrial purposes and 1.5 anna for agricultural. The total consumption is estimated in the first 5 years at 6,000 k. w. and in the second at 6,500 k. w.

X. PUBLIC HEALTH — One of the first step to be taken is the expansion of the central hospital at Baroda and the establishment of a medical college attached to it. This will cost Rs. 3·5 lakhs capital and Rs. 2·6 lakhs recurring. A rapid extension of medical and health services in the areas which are still insufficiently provided, by opening dispensaries, hospitals and maternity wards and health centres is also planned.

XI. RE-SETTLEMENT OF MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES — THE same assistance, as is planned elsewhere, has been arranged for the men of the armed forces, when demobilised. They will be given instructions in better farming and cottage industries before they return to their own lands; or, if they have no lands but wish to take up agriculture, they will receive suitable training and will be settled in colonies to be established. The necessary training classes have been established and lands for formation of colonies is being surveyed.

XII. FINANCE — The total cost, as far as it can be estimated at present, for the first 5 years amounts to over Rs. 10 crores. Against this sum the State has already started making provision. The post war reconstruction fund was opened in 1942-43 with Rs. 30 lakhs, in the following financial years a sum of Rs. 84 lakhs was added and in the budget for 1945-46 Rs. 12 lakhs has been provided making a total of Rs. 126 lakhs available for these schemes. The government have been giving anxious consideration to the problem of augmenting their resources for meeting both capital expenditure and the mounting recurring charges, for which the normal revenues of the State are inadequate.

Baroda's record in the past has been always for progress, welfare and social advancement of its people and with this record it can look forward confidently to the sympathy and co-operation of public spirited men whose contributions can go to a long way to meet the capital expenditure on education, medical relief, agriculture and technology. An example has been set by Sheth Maneklal Nanchand who has donated Rs. 4 lakhs for a college at Visnagar and Sheth S. B. Garda to whose munificence the Garda College at Navsari owes its existence. A number of other philanthropists have also come forward to assist the State with donations for maternity wards, hospitals and dispensaries and school buildings.

CHAPTER XXIX

MISCELLANEOUS

(i) Religious and charitable institutions

412. INSTITUTIONS UNDER GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT — There were 50 institutions under direct government management as in the previous year. The local revenue officers managed these, except Kedareshver khichadi and Gyarmi karakhana which distribute alms to Hindu and Muslim destitutes in the Baroda city. These two institutions are directly under the control of the head of the department. The properties of institutions under government management were valued at Rs. 22.13 lakhs, and the expenditure was Rs. 0.80 lakh.

Two funds have been constituted for the benefit of these institutions : (i) the general fund and (ii) the reserve fund.

The general fund is created out of the net savings of the institutions and is intended for religious and charitable objects of public utility. The fund decreased during the year from Rs. 7.56 lakhs to Rs. 7.49 lakhs as unusually heavy expenditure was incurred on repairs of temples (Rs. 30,000) and on dearness allowance (Rs. 15,000).

In addition to this Rs. 46,000 was spent in giving grants to institutions doing useful public work. The more important of these grants were :

Rs. 12,000 to dispensaries in the Mehsana district.

Rs. 14,700 to Rajkiya Sanskrit pathshala at Baroda.

Rs. 3,000 to the Patan Ayurvedic Mahavidhyalaya.

The reserve fund is intended to meet extraordinary expenditure such as extensive repairs to buildings etc. All institutions contribute rateably to this fund. The total contributions to the fund during the year amounted to Rs. 0.03 lakh and the balance at the close of the year was Rs. 0.14 lakh.

413. GRANT-IN-AID INSTITUTIONS — The State exercises general supervision over religious and charitable institutions under private management receiving grants from government. Institutions with an annual income of Rs. 200 or more are required to get their quinquennial budgets sanctioned by government.

There were 3,815 such institutions, 3,269 for Hindus and 546 for Muslims. The total grant to these institutions in the form of inamis lands, villages and cash payments amounted to Rs. 1.39 lakhs.

414. INSTITUTIONS FOR RELIEF OF THE POOR ETC. — There are 19 institutions for the relief of the poor, one orphanage, two schools for the deaf and dumb and one leper asylum, all maintained by government.

415. RELIGIOUS PREACHERS — Six itinerant religious preachers worked during the year at Amreli, Bechraji, Sidhpur, Kadi, Patan, and Chandod. They delivered simple lectures on the fundamental principles of religion and on the evils of untouchability.

(ii) Administration of wakfs (Muslim trusts)

416. WAKF ACT — The Wakf Act modelled on the lines of the Bengal Wakf Act of 1934 has been in force since 1942.

It provides for a wakf commissioner and a board consisting of ten members to assist and advise him. At present the head of the deosthan department acts as the wakf commissioner. The function of the commissioner and the board is to scrutinise the income and expenditure of the different wakfs and to prevent misuse of wakf properties. All wakfs are required to be registered and to submit to the commissioner a complete statement of their properties, income and expenditure and their annual financial statements.

On the enactment of this law a survey of all wakfs was undertaken through the revenue officers. As a result 749 wakfs have so far been registered. The value of their properties was estimated at Rs. 47.13 lakhs and their annual income at Rs. 2.77 lakhs.

(iii) Estates under management

417. ESTATES UNDER MANAGEMENT — The number of estates under management was 367 as against 382 in the previous year. Of these, 76 were under the Guardian and Wards Act, 8 to secure government loans, and an equal number for the recovery of arrears of land revenue, 7 to protect government shares, 11 on account of disputes among holders, 173 owing to mismanagement of temples and 84 for other reasons.

Of the total number of estates under management, 31 estates have been under attachment for less than one year, 106 for one to five years, 124 for more than five years, 54 for more than ten years and 52 for more than fifteen years.

The total demand of these estates was Rs. 7.99 lakhs of which Rs. 2.5 lakhs was arrears. The total collection was to Rs. 5.16 lakhs and the arrears at the end of the year were Rs. 2.83 lakhs.

(iv) Court of wards

Under the law relating to wards, the head of the department is authorised to assume control over estates of minors and others, who are physically or mentally unable to manage them.

During the year the number of estates under the court of wards increased from 73 to 76 estates of 8 wards having been taken under management and of 5 released. The number of wards was 92. The value of properties managed was Rs. 49.67 lakhs; their income and expenditure was Rs. 2.17 and Rs. 1.48 lakhs respectively. The demand for the year amounted to Rs. 2.28 lakhs, of which Rs. 1.96 lakhs were realised and Rs. 0.32 lakh remained in arrears.

The debts due to the estates amounted to Rs. 3.09 lakhs, and the debts owed by the estates amounted to Rs. 1.31 lakhs. The savings effected in favour of the estates was Rs. 8.22 lakhs as against Rs. 8.32 lakhs in the preceding year. These are invested in approved securities.

Sixty one wards were receiving education, 32 in primary schools and 29 in secondary schools, while the remaining 31 wards were either too young or unfit for study.

The rate of supervision charges was revised during the year and a graduated rate rising from 2 to 5 per cent varying with the income has been adopted instead of the flat rate prevailing upto now.

(v) Public press and publications

+18. PRINTING PRESSES — The number of printing presses at the beginning of the year was 91. One new press was started and 4 were closed. There was thus 88 presses actually working at the end of the year.

419. PERIODICALS — During the year, 3 dailies, 1 bi-weekly, 5 weeklies, 38 periodicals and 126 books including pamphlets were published.

Of the 38 periodicals 11 were literary, 8 communal, 5 religious, 4 relating to physical culture and health, 2 legal and 8 miscellaneous.

420. BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS — The books and pamphlets published during the year are classified below according to their subject matter :—

Literature			History and biography	10
General	3		Politics	4
Novels	40		Economics	1
Poetry	7		Philosophy	1
Drama	4		Religion	12
	54	54	Medical	1
Education		18	Miscellaneous	25
			Total	126

Of these 90 were in Gujarati, 21 in English, 3 in Marathi and 1 in Hindi.

(vi) Government press and stationery

421. THE PRESS -- All printing work for the State and the State railways and printing of vernacular text books is done at the State press. The press also supplies all stationery to government departments.

Work of the value of Rs. 3·15 lakhs was done at the press during the year, as compared to Rs. 3·14 lakhs in the previous year.

The press employed 235 men, as in the preceding year. The monthly wages bill was Rs. 6,184 as against Rs. 5,004 and supervision charges Rs. 3,116 as against Rs. 2,648 per month in the previous year.

The foundry continued to be run departmentally. It cast 3,735 lbs. of type during the year against 5,825 in the previous year.

Stationery of the total value of Rs. 1·15 lakhs were supplied to government offices.

(vii) The Raj daftardar

422. INSPECTION AND PUBLICATION OF RECORDS — The Raj daftardar and his staff toured for 69 days in the Mehsana and the Navsari districts and inspected the records of 118 offices, including 7 in the Baroda city. The work of the records sections of these offices was satisfactory except in municipal offices.

A complete list of all Pension documents in the State archives was published during the year.

(viii) The information bureau

423. THE BUREAU — The bureau issued press notes giving information about important measures taken by the government, and a monthly bulletin — the Prakashan Patrika — in Gujarati for circulation specially in rural areas.

At the request of the war propaganda sub-committee, the bureau issued weekly bulletins in Gujarati giving news about the war, and of war efforts in the State and elsewhere. This bulletin is widely circulated.

The bureau has organised a press room, which is kept well supplied with periodicals and books of reference. The information officer acts as the press advisor for the city. The bureau submits to government important articles and items of news collected from all English and vernacular newspapers. This arrangement has proved useful to representatives of the press.

Summary

1. WAR EFFORT — His Highness' Government continued to give their fullest co-operation in the prosecution of the war. The Baroda squadron of the R. A. F. and H. M. I. S. Baroda, the 2nd Baroda Infantry and the mechanical transport section were on active service throughout the year. Their services have been widely appreciated and several members of the Baroda army were mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Burmah and on the eastern frontiers of India. General Evans, commanding the 7th Indian Division said, "Throughout the final campaign the battalion met all demands made upon them with a spirit of keenness and determination which was second to none and carried out their duties with outstanding efficiency." In Siam, their smartness and discipline evoked universal approbation. Lt. General Sir Oliver Lease and Brigadier Max Dyer, commanding the 268th Indian Division have spoken highly of "the efficiency, soldierly behaviour and discipline of the troops" and said that the unit "carried out their duties in an exemplary manner under very trying conditions".

The government maintained a recruiting office in Baroda which did useful work in supplying information and enlisting men. The State also trains war technicians in various institutions, the most important of which, the Kalabhavan, has trained 678 men since 1940.

His Highness the Maharaja gave £500 for Christmas and New year's gift to the Baroda squadron and Rs. 6,000 for providing amenities to the men of H. M. I. S. Baroda and Narbada, the two ships adopted by His Highness. The state war gifts fund stood at Rs. 2.57 lakhs. Investment by the State in 3 per cent Defence Loans and interest-free bonds amounted to Rs. 154.17 lakhs and Rs. 25 lakhs respectively. The total contribution of the State to the War Purpose Fund was Rs. 24.31 lakhs.

2. ATTACHED AREAS — "The firm establishment of conditions in which these areas will secure and enjoy full opportunity for progress and development" is the object underlying the new relationship between the State and the 250 states, talukas and estates now attached to it. The Baroda Government's pledge to spare no effort in its realisation is being fully carried out. The administration of the areas has been reorganised and the social services of the State are being extended to these areas. Eighteen new, primary and secondary schools were opened and compulsory education was extended to thirteen areas having schools; the training of teachers and inspectors, and the extension of physical education and scout movement encouraged, and

the library movement introduced. There are now 321 primary schools with 19,614 children and 118 English classes with 1,674 boys and 74 girls. Public health service has also been extended. There were 18 government dispensaries working. At these 183 indoor and 75,480 outdoor patients received treatment. A number of public works, roads, protected water supply works, schools and government buildings were constructed.

His Highness has created a special trust yielding Rs. 0·50 lakh and a grant of Rs. 0·50 lakh is given from the Diamond Jubilee Trust for rural development. Village works, wells, tanks etc., for which Rs. 79,148 were sanctioned in the previous year and 69,375 during the year under report, were completed or were in progress. Subsidies amounting to Rs. 7,460 were given to village panchayats to be established in Kankrej, Deodar and 48 non-jurisdictional states. Permanent occupancy rights were given to the cultivators of khalsa villages of the Tharad State.

3. CIVIL SUPPLIES — The following measures were taken by the government to meet the difficulties created by the war :—

(a) *Grow more food campaign*: Since the beginning of 1942, the government have been taking measures, some obligatory and others concessional, to induce agriculturists to grow more food crops instead of cotton and other commercial crops. These are :—

- (i) The minimum area to be sown with food crops in any holding was fixed in each area according to the nature of the soil and the types of crops grown, etc.
- (ii) A concession of 25 per cent in the assessment was allowed to induce cultivators to grow food crops instead of cotton. Upto the end of July 1944 as a result of this concession 254,361 bighas of land were brought under food crops.
- (iii) Cultivators were encouraged to bring marginal and cultivable waste lands under the plough, by exempting such lands from assessment and water cess, and offering rewards and tagavi.

As a result of these measures, the area under commercial crops has decreased in these 4 years by about 400,000 bighas and 95,000 bighas of additional land has been brought under food crops. At a moderate estimate this has increased the food supply by about 50,000 tons per year.

These measures were continued but the failure of kharif crops due to excessive rains forced the government to relax some of the measures in certain areas.

(b) *Procurement of food grains*: During the year as a result of the failure of kharif crops, it was feared the deficit would be 1,65,000 tons, which was almost double the normal deficit. As against this the Government of India allotted to the State, under the basic plan, only about 71,000 tons. The wheat and juwar harvest, however, were usually good and the State was in a position to surrender 25,000 tons out of this quota.

The government through its agencies bought over the surplus of the food growing areas for the deficit areas. The total food grains purchased was 41,500 tons: 13,000 tons of rice, 2,700 tons of bajri, 16,500 tons of juwar and 9,300 tons of wheat.

Though the State was deficit in major food grains, there was a surplus in pulses and an export quota under the basic plan of 19,000 tons for tur, moong and urd was allotted. The actual exports during the year totalled about 17,000 tons - 8,500 tons of tur and moong each. The quota for the year May 1945–April 1946 is 9,000 tons of tur and 9,600 tons of moong and 700 tons of urd. Some of this had already been exported during the year.

(c) *Distribution organisation* : For the distribution of food grains special fair price and cheap grain shops had been organised to prevent black markets and for the relief of government servants and lower middle classes.

There were 80 shops in Baroda city which supplied food grains to four-fifths of the city before rationing came into operation. With the introduction of rationing from 1st August 1945, these shops were closed and the retail trade was entrusted to experienced merchants and co-operative societies.

In the districts there were 269 cheap grain and fair price shops working – 233 of these were organised with and received assistance from the donation of Rs. 10·5 lakhs graciously given in the previous year, by His Highness the Maharaja for the relief of his subjects.

These supplied 8·5 lakhs maunds of grain worth Rs. 107·5 lakhs to 15·5 lakhs of people.

Special relief measures were adopted for government servants, the lower middle class people, the old and infirm and the poorer areas.

Besides these, 42 factory shops were working to supply food grain to their employees. These supplied 1,63,542 Bengal maunds of grain at controlled price to 1,39,670 employees.

The government continued participation in the Government of India scheme of standard cloth. The total quantity of standard cloth received and sold during the year was 6,66,494 yards and 5,27,807 yards as against 21,80,468 yards and 15,84,701 yards, respectively, in the preceding year.

The quotas of sugar, gur, kerosene, crude oil and petrol were distributed under varying degrees of control, sugar and petrol and kerosene being completely rationed.

4. SEASON — The monsoon set in early and continued strong without a break causing floods and hindering agricultural operations. In the northern districts, it ended early but Baroda and Navsari had several heavy showers late in the season. Everywhere the rainfall was considerably above normal. Okhamandal had 41 inches — more than three times the average and heavier than ever known to have occurred there.

This excessive rain and the winter frosts were harmful to crops. The kharif crops were poor; of the rabi crops, wheat was affected by rust but pulses were fairly satisfactory and juwar in the southern districts was good. Open field paddy was unsatisfactory but kyari paddy did well.

5. BUDGET — The budget estimates of the year provided for revenue of Rs. 395.00 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 394.26 lakhs leaving a surplus of Rs. 0.74 lakh. The year, however, proved better than anticipated. The actual receipts were Rs. 434.26 lakhs and the actual expenditure Rs. 373.78 lakhs. The year closed with a surplus of Rs. 60.48 lakhs.

The receipts from land revenue amounted to Rs. 102.64 lakhs of which Rs. 7.57 lakhs were transferred to the Land Revenue equalisation fund which stood at Rs. 90 lakhs at the end of the year. For post war reconstruction Rs. 44 lakhs were set apart.

The net assets of the State at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 1,303 lakhs. Of these, Rs. 583 lakhs represent capital invested in railways, Rs. 46 lakhs in electric works, Rs. 51 lakhs in Okha and other ports. The liquid assets amount to Rs. 841 lakhs. Of these, Rs. 350 lakhs are set apart for the reserve fund, and Rs. 90 lakhs for the Land Revenue equalisation fund.

6. LEGISLATION — A number of acts and amendments were passed during the year. The Land Improvement Schemes Act empowering government to enforce schemes for the improvement of agriculture etc., and the amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code permitting women to work as jurors and assessors are two of the more interesting of these.

7. JUSTICE — In district civil courts the duration of ordinary suits increased from 434 to 726 days or by 75 per cent, mostly because a large number of suits pending for a long time in Baroda and Mehsana courts were disposed of during the year.

In munsiff courts the duration of ordinary suits increased from 151 to 187 days or by 23.9 per cent but the duration of small causes suits decreased from 74 to 70 days.

There was an appreciable improvement in the disposal of first appeals in the high court, the duration decreasing from 307 to 190 days; in district courts, however, there was no such improvement: the duration increased from 209 to 215 days.

In the high court, on the criminal side the duration of first appeals was 137 days as against 149 in the previous year, of second appeals 32 days as against 26, and of acquittal appeals 87 days as against 56. In sessions courts the duration of sessions cases rose from 52 to 73 days and of criminal appeals from 52 to 55 days. In magistrates' courts, inspite, of the marked decrease in the number of cases on file, the duration of cases was slightly higher than in the previous year: 44 as against 43 days.

8. LAW AND ORDER — Peace and order continued to prevail in the State and there were no serious breaches of the peace, though in some cases precautionary measures had to be taken.

There was a marked decrease in the volume of crime. The total number of cognisable offences was 3,471 — 299 less than in the preceding year. The strict vigilance of the police and the new system of supervision over criminal tribes are largely responsible for the improvement.

9. SOCIAL LEGISLATION — The social legislation in the State represents the accepted policy of the government that in social matters the statute book must reflect the highest ideals of the race. The more important of the laws in force in the State are :—

- Child Marriage Prevention Act;
- Hindu Divorce Act;
- Hindu women's property legislation;
- Hindu Monogamy Act;
- The Caste Tyranny Removal Act;
- The Social Disabilities Removal Act;

A study of the operation of these laws over a long period brings into relief, both the difficulties of social legislation when not adequately supported by public opinion and its influence in moulding and educating public conscience. Their working is reviewed on pages 96-104.

The effect of the Child Marriage Prevention Act has been that while before 1920 and even 1930 a third of the marriages in the State were below the prescribed limit, now, under a higher marriageable age only about one-eighth of the marriages come within penalised age limits. The effect on the civil condition of society is also marked – during the last forty years the average age of marriage has risen by five years. The number of cases under the Divorce Act does not show any marked increase. The number of prosecutions under the Caste Tyranny Removal Act was small and of these none succeeded. People are generally reluctant to take the risk of embittered relations with the leaders of the caste which a prosecution or even giving evidence involves. Independently of the result of the cases filed in the courts, the existence of the Act has proved to be a salutary check on the arbitrary exercise of the powers of excommunication. Hindu women are now asserting the enlarged rights given to them by the amendments in the Acts relating to Hindu law enacted in 1933. Generally among the higher castes, these rights are conceded as women's property rights have always been more extensive in this part of India than elsewhere. Among the lower classes, however, men are less willing to accept the change, and the women are not yet conscious of their rights.

10. ECONOMIC LEGISLATION — The economic legislation in the State is reviewed on pages 104–111 of the report. This legislation falls under three classes – (i) tenancy, (ii) debt and (iii) protection of backward classes. The tenancy legislation – the law regulating the relations between Ankadia holders and their tenants and the law for the fixation of rents in the backward areas – has had beneficial results. The latter Act has been specially useful as it has secured a substantial scaling down of rents and the advantage of permanency of tenure to cultivating agriculturists of the Raniparaj class.

It is largely due to this, that relations between the parties have steadily improved since the introduction of the Act. This improvement is reflected in the average number of cases filed during the last three years compared to the average for the first three years of the Act, 1934–37. Suits for ejectment have fallen from 350 to 152, for fixing of rent from 976 to 350 and for recovery of arrears from 900 to 161.

Two measures constitute the legislation in protection of the interests of agricultural debtors. The Debt Conciliation Act is now in operation in 22 talukas. These boards dealt with 64 cases involving an aggregate of Rs. 1·10 lakhs.

The number of cases and the amount of the debt involved are meagre when compared to the magnitude of rural indebtedness. Moreover, in spite of the extension in the area and the scope of the Act and the facilities offered by its link with land mortgage banks, the number of persons who have taken advantage of the Act has been

decreasing progressively : the number of applications during each year since 1940-41 was 333, 272, 148, 173 and 64. During the last 4 years, there has been a wide spread movement to sell land and settle debts, as indicated by the increase in the number of documents registered ; yet debtors have not been tempted to seek the assistance of the conciliation boards. The second law, the Agriculturist Debt Regulation Act, was intended to give relief to agriculturists from the effects of the fall in prices of agricultural produce and has been freely availed of by agriculturists of all classes. The legislation for the protection of backward classes is designed to save the Raniparaj and other backward classes from being ousted from their lands by money lenders.

11. LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT — The total income of the four local boards was Rs. 8.30 lakhs and the expenditure Rs. 10.13 lakhs. The paucity of the means at the disposal of district boards severely limits their capacity to assist in the rural development, and for that reason, it is a factor in dissuading many capable leaders of villages from seeking election to these boards. The boards' responsibility is mainly confined to feeder roads and village water supply but in providing even these essential requirements, progress has been distressingly slow. To expedite the programme the government have from time to time augmented the resources of these boards either by giving direct financial assistance for particular works or by placing at their disposal new sources of income or by relieving them of some of their responsibilities. In 1939, for instance, the boards were relieved of their contribution towards education, thus adding Rs. 3.25 lakhs to their resources. But none of these measures have appreciably affected the position. During the year, the government have again reviewed the working of these boards and they have come to the conclusion that raising the local cess from 1 anna to 2 annas in a rupee of land tax will not be an inappropriate measure considering the need of rural roads and the high prices of agricultural produce.

Feeder roads : To connect as many villages as possible with the railway system, with which Baroda is so well served, a programme of feeder roads was sanctioned in 1928-29. The number of roads on the programme, subsequently expanded a little, was 159 with a length of about 479 miles. Of these, 135 roads covering a length of about 407 miles have been constructed. The original programmes of the Amreli and Navsari districts have been completed and new programmes have been prepared. The expenditure incurred upto the end of the year was Rs. 10.78 lakhs of which Rs. 5.28 lakhs were contributed by the government.

Village protected water supply : After the completion of programme of 459 village wells, the different prant panchayats have undertaken new triennial programmes. In the Baroda district, out

of 62 wells on the programme, 49 have been completed and 8 were in progress, in the Mehsana district 93 new wells were taken up out of which 25 wells were completed and work on 68 wells was in progress, in the Navsari district, 55 wells were completed. The total expenditure on these was Rs. 1.62 lakhs and the government contribution was Rs. 17,000.

Along with the programme of village wells a triennial programme of tube wells was adopted for villages, where potable water could not be tapped even at great depth by sinking ordinary wells. The programme has been postponed because of the prohibitive rise in cost.

Anti-malaria campaign etc : Among the important activities of prant panchayats, the extension of anti-malaria measures should be mentioned. Malaria constitutes the main menace to health in the State and in order that the worst areas might be taken up on a systematic plan, the government have given the following grants:—

- (i) Rs. 8,400 a year for five years, for extending the operations in 208 villages of the Gandevi, Mahuva, Songadh, Vyara and Mangrol talukas in the Navsari district;
- (ii) Besides this, a scheme has been formulated in co-operation with the Navsari prant panchayat to open 5 dispensaries to 11 centres in the worst affected areas of the district to carry out a systematic campaign for the eradication of malaria from those areas;
- (iii) Rs. 7,900 a year for five years, for extending work to 160 villages of the Kadi, Kalol and Kheralu talukas in the Mehsana district;
- (iv) Rs. 2,500 a year for three years, for operations in 80 villages of the Kodinar taluka in the Amreli district;
- (v) Rs. 4,400 a year for three years for work in 150 villages of the Sankheda, Savli, Vaghodia and Dabhoi talukas in the Baroda district.

Recreation grounds : A ten years programme of providing recreation grounds at government cost in all towns with a population of 7,000 or more and several other important though smaller towns was sanctioned. Under the scheme, which is estimated to cost Rs. 4.09 lakhs, 46 towns and villages will have recreation grounds by 1954.

12. SHREE SAYAJIRAO III DIAMOND JUBILEE TRUST —The notable part played by the Diamond Jubilee Trust in rural reconstruction is described in chapter XIII.

The Shree Sayajirao III. Diamond Jubilee Trust was created by His Highness the late Maharaja Sayajirao III. by a personal gift of one crore of rupees. The income from this fund is utilised for supplementing the efforts of the government to improve village life in all its aspects - economic, social and cultural.

A long-term programme has been adopted and grouped under three heads :—

- (a) Works of public utility in individual villages;
- (b) schemes for backward areas and classes; and
- (c) head-quarter schemes, benefiting large areas or sections of rural population.

The expenditure on village works was Rs. 3.74 lakhs, on schemes for backward areas Rs. 0.46 lakh and on head-quarter schemes Rs. 0.37 lakh during the year.

13. SHREE SAYAJIRAO III MEMORIAL FUND — To perpetuate the memory of His Highness the late Maharaja Sayajirao III. a sum of rupees one crore was endowed by His Highness the Maharaja on the occasion of his accession to the throne. The fund is intended to finance schemes benefiting all sections of the people without any distinction of caste or creed. The income of this fund is Rs. 3.50 lakhs a year.

The utilisation of this fund awaits the cessation of hostilities. Funds are being accumulated from this trust for an engineering college in mechanical and electrical engineering to be opened after the war and for an institute for training in B. Sc. (Tech.) in weaving technology. Four schemes, however, have been so far sanctioned.

- (i) An annual endowment of Rs. 21,000 has been made to the Benares Hindu University for establishing a chair to be called "The Sayajirao Chair of Indian Culture and Civilization" and for three fellowships attached to it.
- (ii) A grant of Rs. 10,000 a year has been made to Shree Maharani Shantadevi Trust for medical aid to women and children of the State.
- (iii) Rs. 15,000 a year have been set apart for awarding scholarships to the sons of sardars, assamdars and the like for secondary and higher education.
- (iv) Scholarships for textile chemistry and chemical engineering, available to B. Sc. students, have also been instituted,

14. DIAMOND JUBILEE PEOPLE'S VILLAGE UPLIFT FUND — The total fund amounts to Rs. 7·59 lakhs. The yearly income of interest on this fund is Rs. 27,000. The income is utilised for awarding scholarships to agriculturists for obtaining practical instruction in agriculture, horticulture and subsidiary occupations like leather tanning, paper making, tailoring, etc. A substantial amount is spent each year for encouraging khaddar industry.

15. AGRICULTURE — The activities of the agriculture department continued to expand. Investigations of diseases in crops including cotton root-rot were carried out and the agricultural chemist investigated problems relating to soil and water of different parts of the State. Separate farms have been established for each of the distinctive agricultural tracts of the State for dealing with the specific problems of each area and introducing crops best suited to the soil, climate and conditions of the area and helping to provide pedigree seeds, manure and modern implements to agriculturists. There are eleven such farms in the State. Important schemes of research are in progress in co-operation with the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, in addition to schemes undertaken by the State itself.

Propaganda : The crux of the problem in agriculture is to link the work of the experimental farms with the villages, to make the agriculturist adopt the varieties, methods of farming and collection of manure etc., which after numerous experiments and field trials have been found to be the best suited to the tract. A solution of this problem is attempted on a comprehensive plan which includes, (i) intensive work units, (ii) agricultural education, (iii) tours and exhibitions and (iv) rural reconstruction centres.

Intensive work units : This is the important and widespread section of agricultural propaganda. Areas selected for intensive work are divided into units of about twenty villages and each unit again divided into three or four sub-units. A unit is under an overseer, and a sub-unit under a kamgar assisted by fieldsmen, all trained on government farms. The kamgars carry out selected experiments in fields of agriculturists as an object lesson to the villagers, besides distributing improved seeds and implements and showing improved methods of collecting manure. In this work, they are assisted more and more by the better farming societies, which have been established in the villages of these units. On this plan, there were 19 units serving 393 villages of all the districts.

In the areas outside the intensive zones, assistants tour with *itinerant carts* according to settled programmes. They teach the cultivators the best methods of collecting and preserving manure and distribute improved seeds and implements at concession price.

During the year, 33 itineraries were completed reaching 586 villages. Over 1,50,000 people attended lantern lectures and cart exhibitions and 855 implements and 92,000 lbs. of seeds were sold.

The third means of propaganda is conducted tours, agricultural shows, exhibitions and demonstrations. During the year, leading agriculturists, interested in agricultural progress and research, were taken to the institutions of the department at government expense.

16. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION CENTRES — Their aim is to develop in the people living in villages, a desire for a higher standard of living "the will to live better", and to bring into existence in the area enthusiastic workers with qualities of leadership, who can eventually take over, maintain and develop the work of the centre. This object is achieved by establishing in every village of the centre a co-operative society, whose aim is to effect improvement in all aspects of rural life and whose functions comprise all objects of utility to village. When such societies have been established in all the villages a union will be formed which will be entrusted with the task of continuing the work of the centre.

17. DEODARDA AND THE DABHOI SCHOOLS — Similar in aims to the reconstruction centres are the Thakarda boarding school of Deodarda and the Dabhoi agricultural school meant for the backward classes, both financed from the Diamond Jubilee Trust.

The schools aim primarily at three things, viz.

- (i) to teach good agriculture;
- (ii) to instil among the boys the will to live better; and
- (iii) to train up leaders.

so that, when the boys go back to their villages, they may make good cultivators and good members of their community.

Both the schools have extensive farms attached to them. The accommodation at both Deodarda and at Dabhoi is for 100 boys. In the year under report, however the numbers of boys was 24 and 48 respectively.

18. EFFECTS OF PROPAGANDA — The effects of this propaganda are indicated by the increase in the use of modern implements, fertilizers, improved seeds and manure during the last 10 years. The use of fertilizers has increased from 120 thousand to 6,770 thousand pounds, the manure made by agriculturists from 620 thousand to 16,200 thousand pounds and the use of pedigree seeds from 460 thousand to 5,000 thousand pounds.

As indicated by these figures of purchases from the department the use of pedigree seeds has increased 11 times, of fertilizers 60 times and the making of urine earth and compost manure has trebled.

19. SOIL CONSERVATION — To educate the people to the serious impoverishment of the soil caused by erosion and to discover the best method of checking it, the government have established two experimental and propaganda centres: at Hirpura and at Dhari. The work has now been in progress for 5 years with encouraging progress.

20. SCHEMES — The schemes worked in co-operation with the Indian Central Cotton Committee were all concerned with the development of long staple cotton of superior qualities.

Four such extension schemes were in operation during the year:

- (a) Vijaya scheme to replace B. D. 8 in the black cotton soil areas of the Baroda district;
- (b) B. 9 scheme for the Savli and Waghdia talukas of the Baroda district;
- (c) Suyog scheme to replace 1027 A. L. F. in the Navsari district;
- (d) Waghatar scheme to replace waghad 8 in the Mehsana district.

(i) *Paddy improvement scheme:* It has been extended for another two years: the study of open field and kyari paddy is in progress at the Dabhoi farm.

(ii) *Pulse and millets improvement scheme:* The crops which are being studied are tuwar, math, juwar, kodra and bajri.

(iii) *Grass improvement scheme:* This is carried out at four sub-stations: Bakrol, Harij, Hirpura and Balasar.

(iv) *Live stock improvement scheme:* Two problems were being investigated,

- (a) the diseases affecting poultry, and
- (b) the comparative food value of ground-nut cake and cotton seed.

(v) *Scheme for the improvement of deshi fowl:* It was put into operation in July 1944 at the Baroda farm with 7 cocks and 32 hens, but the whole flock was wiped out by an epidemic of ranikhet in March 1945. A fresh start has been made.

21. LIVE STOCK IMPROVEMENT — There were four schemes in operation for the improvement of live stock:—

- (i) Rabari colonisation scheme;
- (ii) Kankrej breeding scheme;
- (iii) the premium bull scheme;
- (iv) the sheep breeding scheme.

Besides these, poultry farming, horticulture, agricultural engineering and marketing made satisfactory progress.

22. INDUSTRIES — All the major industrial establishment continued to expand under the impetus of the war. There were 18 cotton textile mills working. Their capital increased by Rs. 90 lakhs to Rs. 744 lakhs and the number of persons employed increased from 23,482 to 25,026. The Dinesh Woollen Mills manufactured 4.67 lakhs of yards of woollen cloth valued at Rs. 24.25 lakhs.

There are now 3 large chemical concerns in the State — The Tata Chemicals, the Alembics and the Sarabhai Chemical Works. The Tata Chemicals manufactured salt and heavy chemicals but their full plant has not started work. The Alembics manufactured pharmaceutical drugs and fine chemicals. They increased their capital from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs and have largely expanded their plant and productive capacity. Their new research laboratories costing Rs. 10 lakhs are almost completed. The Sarabhai Chemical Works have been established with a capital of Rs. 50 lakhs for the manufacture of fine chemicals. They have nearly completed the erection of their plant.

Besides these, there are 5 other smaller plants manufacturing acids, spirits and pharmaceutical drugs.

The other industries which deserve mention is the pottery and glass works. There are now 3 concerns—the Baroda Potteries Ltd, the Baroda Crystal Glass Works and the Alembic Glass Industries.

Financial assistance either in the form of loans or investment in share capital was given to a number of small and large concerns.

23. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY — Sir Cyril Fox, lately director, geological survey of India, was invited by the government to carry out a survey of the geological and hydro-electrical resources of the State. His report is awaited.

24. COTTAGE INDUSTRIES — Training in cottage industries is given in the Diamond Jubilee Cottage Industries Institute at Baroda. The institute also attempts to revive old and well-known industries such as Vismagar metal work and Sankheda lacquer work. For rural areas a large number of demonstration classes have been organised in different centres in which weaving, spinning, calico-printing, lacquer-work and improved methods of tanning are taught. The government gives grants-in-aid to institutions and loans without interest to individuals, to enable them to provide themselves with the equipment necessary for starting or developing cottage industries. Agriculturists were also trained in subsidiary occupations in all the farms and at Kosamba and Karjan centres.

25. OKHA PORT — The trade at Port Okha suffered because of the conditions prevailing due to the war. The customs revenue decreased from Rs. 36 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakh. The receipts from port dues exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 0·67 lakhs. The capital expenditure incurred during the year amounted to Rs. 0·86 lakh, bringing the total capital cost of the port to Rs. 52 lakhs.

26. TELEPHONES — The working of the telephone exchanges in the State was satisfactory. The net earnings came to 10 per cent on the capital investment as compared with 9 per cent in the previous year.

Automatic telephone systems were in operation at Navsari, Billimora, Petlad, Dabhoi, Kalol and Mehsana. All these have been connected or are in progress of being connected with the trunk telephone system.

27. FORESTS — A cautious policy directed towards conserving and exploiting the forests has been adopted. Plans for silviculture, research, management of forests and utilisation of their produce have been carefully revised and modified according to the recommendations of the forest expert engaged from the Government of Bombay in 1938-39.

The total area exploited was 16026 bighas as against 19802 bighas in the preceding year, but the timber extracted was 722,000 as against 638,000 cubic feet, and the fuel 16,40,000 as against 14,72,000 cu. ft. in the preceding year. The average realisation per bigha declined from Rs. 74-1-11 to Rs. 70-14-0. The minor forest products are exploited on a system of farming and license. The total value of such produce sold was Rs. 2·03 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1·2 lakhs in the preceding year. The total revenue was Rs. 14·67 lakhs.

28. FISHERIES — The government's efforts to develop these consist mainly of (i) introducing improved methods of catching, preserving and marketing, (ii) starting new fish industries, such as shark liver oil and fish manure industries, (iii) increasing and regulating the supply by erecting fish farms and hatcheries. Besides this, systematic surveys of the numerous rivers and tanks of the State are being undertaken and those found suitable are stocked with imported food fish of various kinds.

29. CO-OPERATION — Two important features mark the development of the co-operation movement :— (i) the extension of the movement to non-credit work, the sale of cotton, paddy and vegetables and the supply of consumers goods. The magnitude of the work done by co-operative societies in procuring and distributing food, cloth and other necessities of life can be judged from the fact that during the year, 312 societies supplied goods worth over Rs. 134 lakhs to 14 lakhs of people or almost half the population of the State, living in a thousand villages and towns.

(ii) The organisation of societies among factory workers. So far, 20 societies with a membership of 23,270 have been organised. The share capital was Rs. 1.82 lakhs and the working capital Rs. 20.42 lakhs. Compulsory savings increased to Rs. 3.98 lakhs and dearness allowance savings to 16.41 lakhs a total increase of Rs. 7 lakhs in savings. Within 3 years of their establishment, the membership and the working capital of the 20 labour societies exceed half the combined membership and a third of the capital of all other non-agricultural societies.

30. PRIMARY EDUCATION — Among the development activities generally, mass education occupies a leading place. Chapter XXVI describes the progress of education during the year. As in previous years the working of the compulsory system of education was closely watched and steady efforts were made to remove defects and important measures were taken to reduce stagnation and wastage. The measures so far taken have reduced stagnation considerably.

Special attention is paid to the education of the backward classes. Boarding houses, scholarships and other facilities are provided to bring education within their easy reach. These measures are described on pages 180–183.

As the improvement of elementary education depends mainly on the efficiency of the teacher, training facilities are steadily extended and improved. The number and proportion of trained teachers have increased from 3,831 or 61.3 per cent in 1928 to 5314 or 79.1 per cent of the total strength.

There has been also a steady increase in the enrolment in primary schools. The number of pupils under instructions has increased to 2,80,031 from 2,05,931 in 1928–29. The percentage of boys and girls under instruction to the male and female population was 10.9 and 8.5 respectively and the average daily attendance was 77.1 per cent.

The number of girls under instruction was 1,22,064 as against 1,16,444 in the previous year. Of these 1,18,078 were in primary schools, 3,807 in secondary schools 179 in colleges.

The policy of developing the rural library system as an essential complement to mass education is being pursued. The number of village libraries now stands at 1,368. During the last fifteen years there has been an increase of 640 in rural libraries. From the special fund set apart for the purpose, vernacular books are published in easy style suitable for use in these libraries. The library movement is described on pages 184–186.

The government have been developing special attention to the health of the children. Compulsory education has been extended to the whole state and all elementary teachers are being trained for years past in physical instruction, scouting and in the elements of village improvements, so that they may introduce these activities in the village and thus play a useful part in the village life.

31. HIGHER EDUCATION — The secondary schools have grown in number and strength strikingly since 1928-29, showing how the middle and professional classes have realised the advantages of English education. To stimulate private effort new rules have been framed for giving grants in aid to secondary schools. The growth in number has accentuated problems in regard to the methods of teaching and the quality and prospects of the staff and increased attention is now being given by private enterprise to these in their schools. An inter-school board has been appointed to consider questions pertaining to aided secondary schools with a view to securing greater efficiency and remedying defects in staff, conditions of service, accommodation, equipment and playground. The board has already established its usefulness.

University education is provided in the Baroda College, the Pratapsinh College of Commerce and Economics, and the Secondary Teachers' Training College. There were 2,034 students in these colleges. The Garda Arts College is a private institution receiving grant from government. It has 91 students on the roll.

Medical and engineering colleges in Baroda city, affiliated to Bombay University, have been sanctioned by the government, and preparation for their opening are well advanced.

The keen desire for higher education is reflected in the number of donations for arts colleges. S. B. Garda College teaching upto the intermediate class was started at Navsari from June 1945, a donation of Rs. 4 lakhs was received for a college at Visnagar, Petlad has raised funds for a college there, and a college for Amreli is under consideration; soon all the four districts of the State will have colleges of their own.

Technical education is imparted at the Kalabhavan and the vocational high school at Baroda, the district industrial schools at Amreli and Patan and the J. N. Tata Hunnershala at Navsari. There were altogether 567 students in these institutions.

For the training of teachers, the State maintains a college for secondary teachers, and two training schools for primary teachers. In the former there were 96 students and in the latter 638.

Besides these, there were 5 music schools, 7 Sanskrit schools, 2 schools for defectives and 20 boarding houses for the depressed and backward communities. There are 49 such periodical institutions, with 2,130 pupils attending them, of which 458 were girls.

32. THE ANTYAJAS — The position of the depressed classes, who form 15 per cent. of the population, is steadily improving. The total number of Antyaj pupils, boys and girls in schools, was 22,425 or 9.7 per cent of their population. The policy now being enforced is that pupils from this class should be educated in the ordinary schools along with caste Hindu pupils. In 1930–31 there were 201 special Antyaj schools with 18,388 pupils. In 1944–45 there were only 64 special schools with 3,819 pupils and these were located in such places as had a large Antyaj population or where the general Gujarati schools were housed in temple compounds or caste dharmashalas. Unfortunately, the prejudice against Antyaj pupils still persists especially regarding girl students. As regards secondary and higher education progress is slow. There are 24 Antyaj students in the Baroda College, 175 in secondary schools, 3 in the Kalabhavan and 33 in the training schools.

There are complaints that the Antyaj are denied the right to use public wells, roads, etc, especially in villages, in spite of the frequently declared policy of the government. The Social Disabilities Removal Act was enacted in 1939, making it penal to prevent people of these classes from exercising elementary rights, and standing committees have been set up, one in each district, for investigating complaints and initiating action where necessary. No permanent improvement in the outlook of society is, however, possible unless sustained unofficial efforts actively support the government in their policy.

33. BACKWARD AREAS AND TRIBES — Paragraphs of the report describe measures taken for education of the Raniparaj or forest tribes in backward areas. Briefly, boarding houses are established for their special benefit and the education imparted combines literacy instruction with vocational courses. Co-operative societies are being formed to finance the tenants who have been settled in the colony established in the Mangrol taluka in the preceding year, and kamgars trained on the government agricultural farms are employed to instruct them in improved agricultural methods. The government have also sanctioned a programme for the construction of 204 miles of roads in forest areas of which 109 miles have been constructed or are under construction. The scheme sanctioned in 1939, for settling Rabaris in the Mehsana district on land and providing them with pasture for their cattle, made good progress. There are 25 colonies with 433 families at work. Their average income increased during the year from Rs. 303 to Rs. 401.

The boarding houses at Deodarda and Dabhoi serve as a rural reconstruction centre for the Thakarda and the backward classes. In these, boys who will be boarders, will receive intensive agricultural instruction in addition to their general education.

34. PUBLIC WORKS — The progress of public works has been seriously affected by the shortage of supplies and building materials, the difficulty of transport and the rise in prices, and several important works of public utility have had to be postponed. Many others however in spite of these difficulties were undertaken or completed, mostly irrigation works and roads and surveys and plans for undertakings such as water supply and drainage and extension schemes for several towns have been prepared.

The Vijapur Tube Well Irrigation Project by means of an electric grid from a central station was under execution. The machinery for the power house was received and the erection of the plant was in progress. The total cost on the scheme has been so far Rs. 11.77 lakhs.

35. THE AMBICA RIVER SCHEME — Possibilities of increasing the storage capacity are being investigated to extend irrigation beyond the present capacity of irrigating 1,000 bighas of sugar cane.

The Sabarmati project will irrigate 60,000 bighas and will cost Rs. 193 lakhs. The scheme now awaits scrutiny by irrigation experts.

The Zankhari river project as worked out will irrigate 37,000 bighas and will cost Rs. 135 lakhs. The scheme has been approved by irrigation experts, but geological survey pointed to the necessity of taking deeper borings. This is being done.

Schemes for the improvement of Baroda and district towns are being pressed forward. Underground drainage was extended in Baroda city, Bhadran and Navsari and plans for Amreli, Sojitra and Dharmaj have been prepared and schemes for Petlad, Dabhoi, Karjan, Savli, Padra, Sidhpur, Kalol and Vijapur are under consideration. Water works at Atladra, Parekha were completed and schemes for Amreli, Petlad and Kalol have been prepared and while those for Dabhoi, Padra, Savli, Gandevi, Kadi, Kheralu and Unza are under preparation.

Considerable progress was made in the town extension scheme. The layout for Mehsana, Visnagar, Vadnagar, Vijapur, Sidhpur, Dharmaj and Petlad was approved and in several other towns schemes have been sanctioned or are being prepared.

36. VISHVAMITRI FLOOD CONTROL SCHEME — A scheme to control the flood waters of the Vishvamitri and utilise the excess water for irrigation, has been prepared and is now waiting to be examined by an expert.

Besides this, a useful programme of roads and public building was completed. This included sections of the Bombay Ahmedabad road, six maternity wards and hospitals and several schools,

37. MEDICAL RELIEF — A programme for opening dispensaries in rural areas, so that no village may be more than five miles away from a dispensary was recently completed. For further development several measures have been adopted.

- (i) to increase the facilities now available for medical aid for women and children, a separate trust has been created associated with the name of Her Highness Maharani Shantadevi.
- (ii) an anti-malaria scheme formulated in co-operation with the district local board of Navsari for opening dispensaries and centres for the worst affected areas has been sanctioned.
- (iii) another scheme of opening dispensaries with public assistance in all talukas, with less than four dispensaries, has been adopted.
- (iv) medical practitioners and vaidyas are offered subsidies to induce them to settle in villages and give medical assistance to the people of that and surrounding villages.

There are in the State 126 medical institutions, hospitals and dispensaries, that is, one for every 22,659 persons. Five new dispensaries, for which donations had been offered, were sanctioned and five other dispensaries and eleven centres attached to these are to be opened in the Navsari, Gandevi and Palsana talukas of the Navsari district under the anti-malaria scheme. The dispensary at Kalol is to be converted into a general hospital and maternity home with twelve beds in each, for which a donation of a lakh of rupees was received. Subsidised ayurvedic dispensaries were started at Mota Ankadia in the Amreli district and Modhera in the Mehsana district.

38. MEDICAL RELIEF FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN — The extension of medical relief for women and children has been receiving constant attention of government. With the establishment of the Shri Maharani Shantadevi Trust, all efforts in this direction have been co-ordinated and have received a new impetus.

The trust since its foundation in 1939 has established 24 maternity homes with 145 beds, 3 more have been constructed and will shortly be opened, 1 is under construction and 4, at Koyali, Kathore, Umita and Balol, were sanctioned during the year.

The number of patients admitted was 2,838 as against 1,903 in the previous year, the number of ante-natal cases treated was 6,408 as against 5,015.

In the Baroda city there are three maternity wards attached to Shree Sayaji General Hospital and one to the Jannabai dispensary. The total number of patients at these wards during the year was

4,106 as 4,032 and the percentage of deaths to deliveries was 0.5 as against 0.3 in the previous year.

39. POST WAR RECONSTRUCTION — An extensive programme of post war reconstruction has been prepared estimated to cost rupees ten crores in ten years. The following items from the programme may be mentioned here:

- (i) An extensive system of roads, 76 miles of national highways, 97 miles of state roads, 520 miles of district roads and 593 miles of village roads.
- (ii) Irrigation schemes: Sabarmati irrigation scheme and Zankhari irrigation project, serving 60,000 and 37,000 bigha respectively.
- (iii) Vijapur tube well and grid system, which will irrigate the northern parts of the arid Mehsana district.
- (iv) Electrification of rural areas: Baroda has agreed to join the Bombay Government scheme of Bombay-Ahmedabad grid.
- (v) Ship building yard at port Okha capable of building four ships of 8,000 tons each.
- (vi) Intensive and extensive agricultural development through rural reconstruction centres and intensive propaganda units.
- (vii) Opening of engineering and medical colleges, extension of technical training facilities and starting 60 secondary and 1,367 primary schools.

Fuller details are given in chapter XXVIII.

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